

U.S. pulls out of UNIDO

VIENNA (AFP) — The United States announced Monday it was pulling out of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), saying that, like UNESCO, the agency was inefficient. The U.S. delegate to UNIDO, John Ritch, said the withdrawal would take effect on Dec. 31, 1996 in line with a requirement that member countries that want to pull out must give a year's notice. UNIDO, which works to promote industrial development in poor countries, thus becomes the second U.N. agency ditched by the United States under pressure from a Congress critical of what it sees as wasteful spending by these organisations. The United States quit UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, in 1985, also accusing it of Third World bias. The United States provided a quarter of UNIDO's budget, its departure means the agency's 1996-97 budget will be slashed from \$209 million to \$157 million, forcing the elimination of 233 jobs. Mr. Ritch made the announcement as UNIDO began a five-day general conference at its Vienna headquarters to discuss its budget and programmes.

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King greets French company chief

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday received at the Royal Court Gerome Monod, chairman of the board of directors of the French Lyonnaise Desear Company, one of the world's major companies specialised in water. Discussion at the meeting focused on projects the company could carry out in Jordan in cooperation with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation. The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Qasem (see earlier story on page 3).

Mahathir receives King's message

KUALA LUMPUR (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah on Monday met with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad and handed him a message from His Majesty King Hussein. The message deals with Jordanian-Malaysian relations in various fields. Also Monday, Prince Abdullah visited a military exhibition hosted by Malaysia.

Danish queen to visit Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Denmark's Queen Margrethe II and her husband Prince Henrik will visit Jordan in May at the invitation of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, a Royal Court statement said Monday. The statement, carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, did not specify the exact date of the visit. But the palace in Copenhagen said it will take place May 7-9, followed by two days of a private tour, the Associated Press reported. It said the royal couple will visit Israel May 12-14.

Dutch premier due here Jan. 4

AMMAN (Petra) — Dutch Prime Minister Vim Cook will pay an official visit to Jordan Jan. 4 at the head of an official delegation including Foreign Minister Hans van Mierlo at an invitation by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. A Foreign Ministry statement said Mr. Cook will hold talks with senior officials during his two-day visit to Jordan on means of boosting and bolstering bilateral relations.

Kabariti meets Sudanese envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Monday received Sudanese Minister of State Mustafa Osman Ismail, who conveyed to Mr. Kabariti a message from his Sudanese counterpart. Mr. Kabariti and Mr. Ismail discussed bilateral relations and means of promoting them. Mr. Kabariti also met with Egyptian Ambassador in Amman Wagih Hamdi who handed him messages from Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa and Minister of Industry, Trade and Mineral Resources Ibrahim Fawzi. The messages dealt with bilateral relations and the outcome of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit held in Amman in October.

Kabul forces advance on rebels

KABUL (AP) — Government soldiers advanced on rebel positions and captured several key posts south of the Afghan capital Monday, a government spokesman said. During a large overnight offensive that began Sunday, rebel fighters from the Taliban militia were pushed back from their mountain top positions along the Rishkor hills. The government advance could not be independently confirmed, although the sounds of fighting could be heard to the south of the city. A government spokesman claimed the Taliban suffered heavy casualties but it was impossible to verify. The Rishkor hills have been used by Taliban to target Kabul with their mortars and rockets.

GCC opens summit with call for peace

Extremism, Iraq, ties with Israel dominate Muscat meeting in absence of King Fahd

MUSCAT (Agencies) — Gulf Arab leaders opened their annual summit with a peace call here on Monday in the absence of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, forced to miss the gathering for the first time because of illness.

His place was taken by Crown Prince Abdullah at the summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which comprises Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Sultan Qaboos of host country Oman, which along with Qatar has moved towards Israel, praised the "positive steps achieved in the Middle East peace process," in a speech opening the meeting.

"We express our hopes that the peace process will continue and expand on all tracks."

"We affirm that the peace we seek is a peace we believe will provide stability and prosperity for the region, security and confidence for its people, and is a just and comprehensive peace which will eradicate the causes of violence... and replace them with tolerance."

He added: "We appeal to all states to achieve this goal

and to take all necessary measures to eliminate difficulties and obstacles that may stand in its way."

Of the GCC, he said:

"Without cooperation we shall never be able to achieve our goals and it is up to us to strive steadfastly to overcome obstacles that threaten to prevent or impede us in achieving them."

The agenda of the three-day summit focuses on Iraq, regional security, including terrorism which is a growing concern in the Gulf as well as the peace process and normalisation with Israel.

"It's clear that the Gulf Arab countries must confront a problem of joint security and that certain enemies have targeted them," Prince Abdullah said on arrival in Muscat.

A car bomb in Riyadh on Nov. 13 blew up a U.S. army building used to train the Saudi National Guard run by Prince Abdullah, killing seven people.

"Saudi Arabia, under King Fahd's leadership, believes the only way to confront these challenges is for these countries to pool their human, military, political and economic potential," he said.

The United Arab Emiri-

ates' (UAE) president steered a middle course on ties with Iraq in remarks published on Monday, saying he wanted reconciliation but only after Baghdad implemented all United Nations resolutions.

Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, in an interview with Kuwait's Al Siyasseh newspaper, also blamed Iran for last month's failed talks in Doha to settle its territorial dispute with the UAE.

Iraq will present possibly the most intractable issue at the annual GCC summit.

"We want to achieve reconciliation after Iraq implements all U.N. resolutions," Sheikh Zayed said.

"Iraq has to implement what it has to and then take what it deserves... when a party returns the rights it owes to others, should it not return get its rights... this is what should happen, nothing more than that... but to give and not to take, this cannot happen."

A senior Iraqi official urged the GCC leaders to open a new page in relations with Baghdad, the official Al Thawra reported.

The newspaper quoted

(Continued on page 7)

Saudi king remains hospitalised for 5th day amid unclear reports

RIYADH (Agencies) — King Fahd remained hospitalised for the fourth day with a virtual news blackout on his health triggering speculation that his condition may be more serious than official statements have said.

Officials insist that the monarch of the world's major oil producer is recovering from exhaustion and arthritis. But so far, there has been no indication when he will leave hospital.

On Sunday, the royal court issued a statement saying the king, who suffers from diabetes and weight problems, had suffered a "temporary medical emergency" because of exhaustion and overwork.

The court said that the results of a battery of tests were "reassuring," but that he has been ordered to rest for an unspecified period.

The Saudi cabinet said

Ross launches new Israel-Syria shuttle

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — U.S. peace envoy Dennis Ross launched new Middle East initiative on Monday with Israel hoping for a "dramatic" move to end the Syrian deadlock.

The official Syria Times daily said Damascus was "welcoming Mr. Ross and any drastic peace effort but was not ready to give up any grain of her land and right. Peace before Israel's total pullout is impossible."

Mr. Ross' latest shuttle diplomacy is thought to be part of plans for a new peace mission to the region later this month by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Israel said Monday it expected a "dramatic initiative" from the United States to unlock the talks which ground to a halt in June, after chiefs of staff meeting in Washington failed to agree security arrangements for an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan.

"Mr. Ross will test the waters and see if he can arrange a resumption of talks probably at a low level, either ambassadorial or between experts," said a Western diplomat in Damascus.

"There is positive electricity in the air," the diplomat said.

But diplomats cautioned against too much optimism

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(Continued on page 7)

meanwhile it was relieved that King Fahd's medical tests were good because it meant he could continue to lead the kingdom, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said.

It reported Prince Sultan, second deputy prime minister and minister of defence and aviation, who headed the weekly meeting, saying: "We thank God for what he gave to the custodian of the holy shrines in terms of health so that he can continue leading this country towards more stability and security and prosperity..."

The French News Agency (AFP) reported from Dubai that the Saudi royal family has begun to discuss sharing out the duties of King Fahd during his illness without challenging his designated successor Crown Prince Abdulla. It quoted Prince

Abdulla: "If the royal family knows one thing, it is that it cannot allow any row over succession in the current circumstances," a Western diplomat in Riyadh told AFP.

Despite a new law which seems to open up the field for others to lay claim to the Sandi throne, the royal family is unlikely to want to provoke a feud over King Fahd's successor in the event of his death or ouster, experts said.

"If the royal family knows one thing, it is that it cannot allow any row over succession in the current circumstances," a Western diplomat in Riyadh told AFP.

If the ruling is upheld on appeal, then it will mean a sweeping change in the social security system and will set a precedent that could open the way for tens of thousands of applications for similar payment — amounting to

tens of millions of dinars — from the SSC.

AMMAN — The Social Security Corporation (SSC) is appealing a decision by the Court of First Instance that the SSC should pay end-of-service compensation (gratuity) in addition to monthly pension for a retired private sector company employee for the period he was covered under social security offered by the corporation, a senior SSC official said Monday.

If the ruling is upheld on appeal, then it will mean a sweeping change in the social security system and will set a precedent that could open the way for tens of thousands of applications for similar payment — amounting to

The employee's subscrip-

(Continued on page 7)

First NATO units in Bosnia, Croatia

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The vanguard of a 60,000-member North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) force landed in Bosnia and Croatia on Monday to lay the groundwork for enforcing the Balkan peace.

Fifty-six British communications experts arrived in the Croatian port city of Split. In Sarajevo, a comouflaged British C-130 Hercules transport plane carrying a seven-member British logistics team landed at the airport in the Bosnian capital. Officials said two more flights were expected later Monday.

"These are the first definite NATO troops," said Paul Elmer, British U.N. spokesman.

Some 2,600 soldiers have been assigned to lay the groundwork for the whole force. In all, 60,000 NATO troops — a third from the United States — will take

(Continued on page 7)

Ethiopian Jews struggle to become Israelis

By Dan Perry
The Associated Press

BEEROTAYIM, Israel — Beneath a shed of tree branches, dark-skinned men slaughter a cow with long knives. While flies and cats attack the carcass, they divide the meat among residents of this squalid trailer park.

"It's cheaper than buying meat from stores," said Avraham Hegos, 25, who was among thousands of Ethiopian Jews brought to Israel in 1991's "Operation Solomon."

That airlift was hailed as a manifestation of Zionism's humanitarian side, rescuing Jews from a land torn by civil war and poverty.

But despite extensive and unprecedented government aid, there are worries the 56,000 black Jews are becoming an underclass burdened by racial discrimination that drives them to live apart.

"Israelis say they like us, as long as we don't live next to them, with the smell of our foods and our African clothes," said Adisa Masala, an Ethiopian activist.

Community leaders say the Africans are becoming entrenched as the poorest, most segregated group in the Jewish state, their youth increasingly disaffected and elders unable to cope with modern society.

Shula Mula, 23, a community activist who studies education at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, said that "unless something dramatic changes fast, the Ethiopian Jews will become a disaffected minority no different from the blacks in America."

The Ethiopians are eligible for generous government grants for home purchases. But the community lags badly in education and income.

Thousands still live in dismal mobile home sites like Berrotayim, which at 50 Kilometres north of Tel Aviv is far from job centres and schools.

Mr. Hegos, who arrived in the 1991 airlift of 14,000 Ethiopians, works at an air-conditioner factory for the equivalent \$800 a month, just above minimum wage.

Because he is unmarried, Mr. Hegos says he qualifies only for a small housing grant and therefore has few prospects for leaving the mobile home soon.

His neighbour Lior Maherat said he was "dying for boredom." Expelled for misbehaviour from a religious school, the 17-year-old is waiting for his army draft notice while living with his mother, father and seven brothers and sisters in a trailer that lacks a functioning bathroom.

"The worst thing is the Russians," he said, pointing across the only paved road in Berrotayim to another group of trailers housing immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

The groups never interact, except for occasional fist-fights among youths, he said.

Alex Melnik, an 11-year-old on the Russian-speaking side, said he had trouble believing his dark-skinned neighbours were Jews at all. "They're very strange," he said, "and we don't like them

Jordan Times
Tel: 684311

very much."

Discovered in 1867 by French Jewish scholar Joseph Halevy, Ethiopia's Jews remained mostly isolated until former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin decided in the 1970s to press for their emigration to Israel.

Theories about their origins range from the conversion of an African tribe to them being descendants of King Solomon.

"When Israelis started to come over some decades ago, we ourselves couldn't believe there were Jews who aren't black," said Mr. Masala, the activist who heads the Ethiopian immigrants association. "But for millennia we dreamed of returning to Zion, and this was our chance, so we took it."

The community arrived first in trickles and then in two large airlifts — one in 1984 and a second in 1991. Virtually no Jews are believed to remain in Ethiopia.

Optimists say government statistics indicate the beginnings of integration.

Dorit Karlin, the government official responsible for the absorption of the Ethiopians, said more than 600 are in college, triple the number of two years ago.

More than half have bought homes with government grants of up to \$120,000 for families far more aid than available to other immigrants. There are several dozens Ethiopians serving as army officers and numerous cases of marriage between Ethiopian immigrants and other Israelis, Mr. Karlin said.

Immigration Minister Yair Tsaban said: "There has never been such a colossal effort to absorb immigrants. I regard it as a test of honour for Israel. But it will take more than a year, and more than a generation."

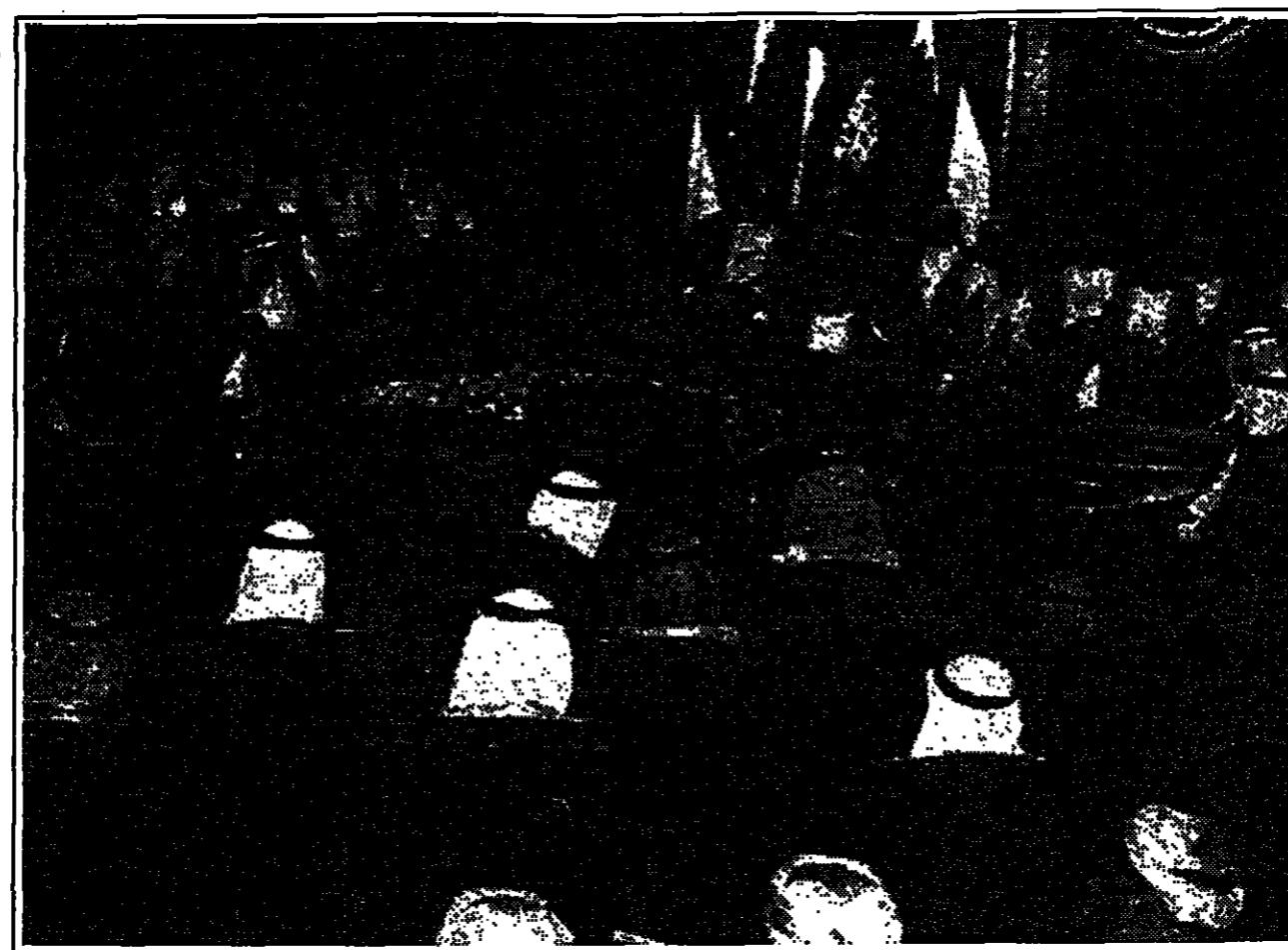
Mr. Tsaban conceded there are "cases of racism" against the Ethiopians. "The biggest impediment to integration is skin colour. We see it all over the world, and it's the case here, too," he said in an interview.

Micha Odenheimer, a U.S.-born activist for Ethiopian rights, said the government is failing in the primary challenge of helping Ethiopian children and teenagers close to educational gap with Israeli-born contemporaries.

He noted that only seven per cent of those eligible completed high school entrance exams last year — by far the lowest proportion of any immigrant group in Israel. That is a virtual guarantee of a future as low-paid unskilled labourers.

Mr. Masala, the rights activist, contends Ethiopian children are assigned to the poorest boarding schools, often sharing them with delinquents. He says the schools, most of which are part of the state's special orthodox religious education system, actually alienate young Ethiopians from religion.

"A terrible generation gap has been created between the children who are moving away from our traditions, and their parents who are very religious and have difficulty with Israeli secular life," Mr. Masala said.



GCC SUMMIT: Leaders of the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) gathered in Muscat, Oman, for a three-day annual summit hosted by Oman's Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'ad (see page one) (Reuters photo)

Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah is a man trusted by tribal and religious leaders

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah, who is standing in for the sick King Fahd at the Gulf summit in Muscat, is an austere man who is trusted by his country's tribal and religious leaders, diplomats said.

"Nobody questions his piety. He is the one most accepted by the Islamic opposition," a Western diplomat said, referring to the growth of opposition groups since the U.S.-led Gulf war to free Kuwait in 1991.

Prince Abdullah is untainted by corruption, a diplomat said, adding: "He is not among those who people denounce" when the subject is raised.

Prince Abdullah, who is heading the Saudi delegation to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit in place of King Fahd who has been in the hospital since Thursday, was born in 1923 and has commanded the

national guard since 1962.

This militia of between 25,000 and 35,000 men drawn from bedouin tribes is tasked with monitoring strategic sites like oil fields, and is considered the rampart of the ruling Saud family.

Prince Abdullah is the 13th son of King Abdul Aziz, founder of the kingdom in 1932. His mother belongs to the Shammar, a powerful bedouin tribe which gave him military training after he was educated by Muslim clerics.

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Islamic Conference in Casablanca last year.

Prince Abdullah was named second vice president to the royal cabinet in 1975 when Khaled was appointed king, becoming the kingdom's third most powerful figure.

On Khaled's death in 1982, Fahd became king and Abdullah became crown prince.

According to the Arab press, Prince Abdullah and his half-brother Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz, minister of defence and aviation are frequent rivals.

Prince Sultan belongs to the Soudairi clan, which includes King Fahd and six other sons that King Abdul Aziz had with his favourite wife Hassa.

Also among the sons are Prince Nayef, the interior minister, and Prince Salman, the governor of Riyadh.

Prince Abdullah, who has no blood brothers, enjoys the

trust of puritan religious leaders known as the ulema and the tribes of the Nejd, the country's harsh desert centre and home of the Al Saud.

In foreign policy, Prince Abdullah appears to have fewer links to the United States than the Soudairi clan and has more ties to the Arab countries.

Several sources said he expressed reservations over how quickly King Fahd called in U.S. troops after Iraq invaded Kuwait. Although he did not oppose the move, he argued that the religious leaders should have been prepared for it.

He successfully mediated a dispute between Syria and Jordan in 1980, and is considered the architect of the meeting in Taif, Saudi Arabia, which paved the way for the end of the Lebanese civil war.

The prince suffered a "mild heart attack" in 1986, a Western diplomat said.

Chirac is still willing to meet Zeroual despite snub

COTONOU, BENIN (R) — French President Jacques Chirac said Sunday he was willing to meet newly elected Algerian President Liamine Zeroual, in spite of an earlier snub by Mr. Zeroual before the election.

"President Zeroual is the legitimate president of Algeria, and it would not be a problem for me to meet him," Mr. Chirac said in an interview with the international French-language satellite Television Channel TV5.

The French leader was in Benin for a summit of French-speaking countries.

"No one can contest the lawfulness of the election, the high rate of voter participation and the clear nature of President Zeroual's political victory," Mr. Chirac said.

"I believe this to be a first step — and probably a decisive one — towards peace and stability in Algeria. I am certain that all Algerians deeply hope, whatever the political divisions, for peace and stability."

Muslim fundamentalist and opposition parties urged a boycott of the presidential election last month but Algerian authorities said nearly 75 per cent of eligible voters cast ballots and Mr. Zeroual won 61 per cent of the vote.

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Critics said their get-together would be interpreted as an endorsement of Mr. Zeroual's candidacy by France, Algeria's former colonial power.

About 40,000 people have died in civil strife in Algeria since the army intervened in 1992 to cancel a general election which the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front was on the verge of winning.

A police diplomatic protection squad took a reporter and photographer Monday to meet Mr. Rushdie at an undisclosed location.

There has been prolonged political pressure on Iran and Mr. Rushdie expected that country's leaders to be preparing for a full revocation of the fatwa.

"After six years it will take a while for Iran to make a complete turnaround," he

said. "I am not surprised they are doing it by gradual steps."

Iran gave the European Union (EU) an oral assurance in September it no longer sought Mr. Rushdie's death, but refused to commit the promise to paper.

"Until this year no Iranian leader had said such a thing," said Mr. Rushdie. "This year every single member of the leadership has said 'we don't plan to act in such an unpleasant way and, we never did.'"

"I wish they had said that six years ago."

Mr. Rushdie said any assurance would be treated with caution.

In New Zealand to promote "The Moor's Last Sigh," his first novel since the sentence was handed down, Mr. Rushdie said the book's promotion was a chance for him to move back into public life.

So far he has had no trouble.

"It felt great. I felt like I was rejoining the human race."

Rushdie thinks Iranian fatwa will be lifted in '96

WELLINGTON (AP) — Author Salman Rushdie, subject to an Iranian death sentence for six years, expects the edict to be lifted next year.

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AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
CIVIL DEFENCE: Department 661111

EMERGENCIES: Rescue 630341

CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY: 199

EMERGENCY: 621111, 637777

EMERGENCY: 617111

EMERGENCY: 6171



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday inaugurates a new day care centre at Jordan's industrial estates (Petra photo)

Industrial estates establish day care centres

'Facilities to enable women to stay longer in the workforce'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma yesterday inaugurated two new day care centres at Jordan's industrial estates in Sahab and Irbid.

The facilities, a first in Jordan offered by employers to working women, are a joint effort between the industrial estates and the Jordan National Committee for Women (JNCW).

"We hope that this will be helpful in encouraging these factories to hire more women, and enable women to stay in the workforce," said Hiyam Kalimat, director of the JNCW.

The turnover of women employees at the industrial estates is high, she said.

A survey (the JNCW) conducted at the estates showed that women employees stay, on average, only five years at these jobs," she added, which can often be attributed to the fact that facilities for married women with children are not available, in some cases forcing them to leave their jobs after they do have children.

"They simply cannot strike a balance between family and work responsibilities," she said, which begets a second problem.

"Employers (in Jordan) are sometimes reluctant to

hire married women because they often leave. This will offer an alternative to leaving the workforce."

The problem of women and employment is particularly acute during periods of high national unemployment, she continued, which places additional burdens on women by making it that much more difficult for them to find or keep jobs.

The JNCW surveyed both industrial estates earlier this year to assess the need for the service.

Among 111 factories at Sahab, only 74 employ women, with women constituting 10 per cent of the total number of employees in 57 factories.

In the remaining 17 factories, women constitute just over 10 per cent of total employees.

In Irbid, only 19 companies out of a total of 54 located at the industrial estate there employ women, the survey showed.

In both cases, more than 50 per cent of married women with children who work at the industrial estates said they would like to have a day care facility for their children at their place of employment.

"Most women now pay for day care elsewhere or leave children with their families," Mrs. Hikmat said, "but they did express

to us that they prefer a facility where they have qualified staff, activities for children and access to health care."

Also, women who entrust their children to day care outside of the family incur substantial expense in comparison to their monthly salaries, she said.

The survey at the industrial estates found that nearly one quarter of women working in these establishments, on average, earned JD100 or less per month, but spent between JD10-30 on day care services.

In the new facilities, said Mrs. Hikmat, services will be offered on a sliding scale basis according to salary, but fees will not exceed JD 10-15, she said, which will cover approximately two-thirds of the operating costs of the facilities.

The estimated costs of establishing the service and facilities, upwards of JD 25,000, she said, have been covered mostly by the industrial estates and voluntary contributions.

Both the Sahab and Irbid estates have contributed land to build a new facility on unoccupied space in administrative quarters respectively and have volunteered to do financial reports and pay staff salaries for the first year of operations.

"Their cooperation is a

sign of change in attitude about women in the work force," said Mrs. Hikmat. "Some people really don't care—projects like this take time and energy."

"But these industries have set an example," she continued, "By showing that they value women's contribution enough to accommodate them. They also show that this can be done fairly easily without excuse."

Mrs. Hikmat said she has seen other indicators of a change in attitude towards hiring women and towards providing such a service.

In Irbid, she said, a public institution has expressed its desire to use the day care facility at the industrial estate until it can establish its own, and a new factory opening in Irbid also plans to employ 200 women, many of whom will need the service.

"It's a good sign—maybe things are changing," she said.

The JNCW has been instrumental in securing the implementation of the Jordan National Strategy for Women, which was adopted in 1993 and set as a main priority the incorporation of a greater number of women into the workforce by providing support services such as day care for children.

The source, speaking under condition of anonymity, said JCPS members offered to cooperate closely with the Ministry of Agriculture in awareness campaigns to the public and suggested that the ministry take a key role in cooperation with the ministries of supply and health in determining the fitness of various food items for human consumption.

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Senior ministry officials were present at the meeting.

Local firm awarded JD 1.45m contract to build first phase of Jubilee school

AMMAN (J.T.) — A local firm Monday won a JD 1.45 million contract to carry out the first phase of the construction of the Jubilee School at its permanent location in Yajouz on the outskirts of Amman.

Under the terms of the agreement the firm will set up student living quarters, laboratories, a library, a restaurant, playgrounds and squares around the school, according to Ibrahim Badran, executive director of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) which sponsors the school.

Dr. Badran, who signed the contract with the local

firm's general manager, Mikhail Deir said the contract also provides for the construction of the main building of the school.

Dr. Badran said the NHF will sign other contracts for the installation of electricity and other civil works and utilities at the school.

He said the school and its various facilities are to be built on 121 dunums of land.

The Jubilee School, which opened its doors in 1993 at a temporary site in Abdoun, offers gifted students a unique learning experience in Jordan and a curriculum based on their special needs, capabilities

and experiences.

The advanced academic programme at the school meets the intellectual and creative needs of gifted students and challenges them to achieve their full potential, according to NHF.

Last month the Arab Bank donated JD 1.5 million to the Jubilee School and in October Japan made a donation of \$97,955 in equipment for science laboratories at the school.

According to Dr. Badran,

the entire project will cost around JD 12 million.

HCST to hold electronics conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) is organising an international electronics conference on Dec. 17 in cooperation with New York City University and the Jordanian Institute for electric and electronic engineers.

A HCST statement said that university professors, researchers, academics and specialists in electronics from Jordan and abroad will take part in the five-day meeting to review 142 working papers dealing with electric and electronic engineering, telecommunications, informatics control systems and other relevant topics.

During the conference 10

seminars will be organised at the Royal Scientific Society, the Jordan Electricity Authority, the Ministry of Industry and Trade's Jordanian Exports Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) and Philadelphia Hotel.

Leading American experts will be presenting lectures during the meetings on internet services

and computer systems.

WHAT'S GOING ON

LECTURES

- * "Decouverte de L'Orient par les Biblistes fin du Dixième Siècle" by Père Sigrist at the French Cultural Centre at 6.00 p.m.
- * "The Cousin of Juhha in Germany and Turkey" (in German with translation in Arabic) by Dr. D. Glade at Mu'ta University, Irbid, at 11.00 a.m.

FILMS

- * "Danny the Champion of the World" at the British Council at 7.00 p.m.
- * "Saura" at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Anman at 5.00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Photography by poet Ibrahim Nasrallah entitled "The Autobiography of an Eye" at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh.
- * Photograph exhibition "Biblical Itineraries" at the French Cultural Centre.
- * Abstract art by Lucy Marto, Janine Saaf, and Tete Wegelius at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Abstract art by Abdul Raheem Wakid at Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Anman (Until Dec. 6).
- * Sculptures & paintings by Iraqi Artist Ismail Fattah, at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh.

POETRY RECITAL

- * Recital of poems by several poets at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh at 6.00 p.m.

SHORT STORY RECITAL

- * Recital of short stories by Suhair Al Tal at the Phoenix Gallery, Gardens St. at 6.00 p.m.

French company explores bilateral water management possibilities

AMMAN (J.T.) — The board chairman of the French company Lyonnaise Des Eaux, Gérôme Monod held a meeting in Amman Monday with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker to look into areas of cooperation in water issues for the Kingdom.

Speaking after the meeting, which was attended by Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Israeil, and French Ambassador to Jordan Bernard Bajolet, Mr. Monod said there is good potential for Jordan and the French company to work on water-related issues within the framework of a bilateral protocol through financing from international organisations.

The two sides discussed bilateral cooperation in water management and ways for Jordan to benefit from French expertise in overcoming water-related problems, Mr. Monod said.

Mr. Monod, who is due to leave Jordan today, said talks with the concerned Jordanian authorities over the past two days were extremely useful.

He added that the visit has



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Monday receives French company director Gérôme Monod to discuss water cooperation issues (Petra photo)

allowed him and his five-member delegation to closely examine opportunities and areas for investment in the Kingdom.

In a statement to Jordan Television Mr. Monod said

he visited water projects in Amman and Aqaba and discussed water issues and the development of waste water treatment plants with Mr. Israeil. Mr. Monod's visit overlapped with a visit

by French Defence Minister Charles Millon whose two-day visit here ending Sunday, saw the signing of a military cooperation agreement between both countries.

Society looks into food and safety issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Consumers Protection Society (JCPS) President Mohammed Obeidat and society members Monday met with Minister of Agriculture Mansour Ben Tarif to discuss issues related to the safe consumption of agricultural and dairy products.

A society source told the Jordan Times that the meeting was held following public complaints about the safety of certain food stuffs in the local market as well as to urge the ministry to undertake the distribution of information to citizens regarding the safe consumption of agricultural produce.

The source, speaking under condition of anonymity, said JCPS members offered to cooperate closely with the Ministry of Agriculture in awareness campaigns to the public and suggested that the ministry take a key role in cooperation with the ministries of supply and health in determining the fitness of various food items for human consumption.

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Senior ministry officials were present at the meeting.

Four killed in carbon monoxide poisoning

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Four people were killed and one was listed in critical condition, was transferred to Al Bashir Hospital.

The dead were identified by the CDD as Mansour Ghali, 22, Hanan Aziz Abdul Malak, 25, Faraj Kamel Ghali, 28 and Fayez Jirjis Hamid.

Police contacted by the Jordan Times Monday declined releasing any information and said they were waiting for autopsy results to determine the real cause of the death.

CDD statistics of last year said 11 people died in similar incidents from inhaling carbon monoxide, and 280 people were injured in 231 reported incidents.

Last December, three Zarqa children were killed and their parents were in critical condition from carbon monoxide poisoning after leaving a lit kerosene heater in their small room in the Ojai area of Zarqa.

Jordan Television has increased its public service messages this season, warning the public of the dangers of gas and kerosene heating units and how to use them in a safe and efficient manner.

Minister opens five new schools

SALT (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh visited Balqa governorate Monday to open five new schools.

The schools, which are located in the towns of Fuheis, Rumeimin, Sahoub and Suleih, together cost JD 2.34 million to build.

The minister was briefed on the educational situation, educational needs and the various facilities of the new schools.

The minister later opened a teachers' club in Salt and met with local teachers.

The teachers underlined the importance of the club in the promotion of the profession's performance and in helping teachers cooperate in their duties.

At the Salt vocational school for boys, the minister met with educationists and discussed several issues on the educational process in Jordan.

At the meeting, Mr. Rawabdeh pointed out the rapid changes in the field of education which he said, makes it incumbent on the ministry and the concerned educational institutions to continually revise the country's educational system with a view to introducing improvements and modernisation.

Amman to host '97 Euro-Med conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman will play host to the European Union (EU) and the Mediterranean Cities Conference in 1997, according to Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi. Mr. Abbadi, who returned to Amman Sunday, after participating in the Euro-Med Cities Conference which concluded in Spain recently, said Amman will host the next conference in view of Jordan's pioneering role in the region. Participants in the Barcelona conference, according to Mr. Abbadi, have agreed to set up a general secretariat to follow up the implementation of agreements reached at the conference. He said the secretariat includes as members representatives of several cities, including Amman, Algiers, Barcelona, Jericho, Marseille, Nicosia, Rome, Sarajevo, Tunis and Cairo. He added that working groups were also formed to follow up the implementation of issues pertaining to cultural exchange, migration, tourism, transport, the environment and health.

Ministry denies Iraqi companies liquidation deadline

AMMAN (Petra) — An official source at the Ministry of Industry and Trade on Monday denied news reports published by some local newspapers recently saying the government gave owners of some Iraqi companies or companies with Iraqi shareholders a deadline to liquidate their businesses in Jordan. Saying such reports were baseless, the official source also denied that the ministry issued official memoranda warning companies and offices exporting commodities to Iraq. The source added that the ministry does not discriminate between Arab businessmen who invest in the Kingdom in accordance with the investment promotion law.

Lower House to hear state fiscal budget speech

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament will hold a meeting Wednesday morning to hear a speech by Minister of Finance Basel Jardaneh on the state fiscal budget and to refer the budget law to the finance committee. The house, holding its second meeting after the start of the 3rd parliamentary session opened by His Majesty King Hussein Saturday, will elect its permanent finance, judiciary, administrative and foreign affairs committees. The house will also decide on any other committees it will form. In earlier sessions, the house set up committees specialised in public freedoms and citizens rights, health and the environment, education, Palestine and the occupied Arab territories, the countryside and badia, water and energy.

3 die in Chechen car bomb attack

GROZNY, Russia (AFP) — A car bomb exploded in the Chechen capital Monday near Russian administrative offices, killing at least three people and wounding several others.

Police sealed off the area after the explosion, which occurred about 20 metres from the offices of the Russian Territorial Government and Chechenya's pro-Russian administration, an AFP correspondent on the scene said.

Two of the dead were women. Around a dozen people were wounded in the blast said health officials, who warned the toll could rise.

Late last month, two similar attacks left several people wounded in central Grozny, including one which targeted the head of the pro-Russian government, Doku Zavgayev. A third car bomb was defused by security forces.

Heavy firing was heard in the centre of the Chechen capital Grozny late Sunday near the headquarters of the

Russian-backed government, Interfax News Agency reported.

Since pro-Russian authorities announced that an election would be held on Dec. 17 to choose a new head of government, Chechenya has witnessed an upsurge of violence. Separatists have promised to boycott the poll unless Russian troops leave.

Interfax quoted informed military sources as saying that hand-held infantry weapons, large-calibre machine-guns and mortars were used in the overnight firefights.

The source suggested that shooting methods used do not resemble an attempt to fend off an ordinary attack of a small group of militants on a checkpoint," the agency said.

The situation in Chechenya remains unstable despite the signature of a cease-fire accord last June between separatists and Russian forces who took control of most of the Caucasus republic after invading nearly a year ago.

A follow-up agreement providing for the departure of Russian forces in exchange for the disarmament of the Chechens has yet to be implemented.

Between 30,000 and 50,000 people, mostly civilians, are estimated to have died in the six months of heavy fighting between the Russian intervention and the ceasefire.

On Sunday, Russian presidential envoy Oleg Lobov said Chechenya would be granted a special status within the Russian Federation under a draft accord currently being drawn up for the Caucasus republic.

He said the draft settlement would give Chechenya direct rule over affairs of state as well as devolving a large degree of power over trade relations to the republic.

Moscow would, however, maintain control over the war-wracked republic's monetary system, its army and its borders, Mr. Lobov said.

The draft settlement would give Chechenya a similar constitutional status to that already enjoyed by Tatarstan following an accord signed in early 1994 which appeared to satisfy the demands of separatist Tatars.

In another conciliatory sign, Mr. Zavgayev said Sunday that Chechen independence fighters could obtain an amnesty if they hand in their weapons and report to a new commission set up by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Mr. Zavgayev told a news conference in Grozny that the move was "a further step to restoring harmony in Chechenya" after the conflict.

60 dead in Cameroon plane crash

DOUALA, Cameroon (R) — About 60 of 77 passengers and crew were killed when a Cameroon airliner crashed into a mangrove swamp as it attempted to land in the central African country's commercial capital Douala, airline officials said Monday.

Fishermen in dugout canoes were the first to reach the wreckage of the Boeing 737, which came down in the swamp in pitch darkness, complicating rescue efforts.

"Rescuers, essentially fishermen, did not reach the disaster site until an hour after the crash," said an airline official, who put the crash time at about 10 p.m. (2100 GMT) Sunday.

Airline staff said several people were still unaccounted for.

The army, joining the rescue effort, pulled out seven people alive, among them the pilot, co-pilot and a stewardess.

Reporters saw five of the survivors, including the

Opposition vows to resist Bangladesh election

recting a beam of light over the swamp to help rescuers.

Cotonou, Benin's most important city, where the plane began its return flight, is playing host to heads of state of 47 countries attending a summit of French speakers, which ends officially later Monday. There was no indication that any dignitaries from the summit were on the flight.

Cameroon Airlines, a national carrier, is one of the few companies offering regular passenger services across west Africa, with enormous demand for its limited number of aircraft.

The condition of aircraft serving west Africa is a growing concern for many travellers but Cameroon Airlines has had a comparatively satisfactory record.

However, in September a Boeing 747 serving its most prestigious route — Douala-Paris — developed engine trouble as it approached the French city. The pilot managed to land safely.

The plane was on a scheduled flight from the Benin town of Cotonou and was due to continue from Douala to the political capital Yaounde and to Garoua in the extreme north.

A privately-owned helicopter hovered above the crash site about five kilometres from the runway, di-

Former Mexican president goes

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The man many once considered Mexico's greatest president left his homeland nine months ago, shaken by his brother Raul's arrest on murder charges and growing criticism of his own role in the country's economic crisis.

Mr. Salinas has been widely blamed for the devaluation of the peso, which plunged the country into recession three weeks after he left office one year ago.

The criticism of his administration grew in February, when Raul Salinas was arrested and accused of masterminding the murder of their sister's ex-husband — Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu, the

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Victorious Sri Lankan soldiers march through the suburbs of the Tamil Tiger rebel stronghold of Jaffna. Most of the town is now under army control after six weeks of heavy fighting against the guerrillas (Reuters photo)

Clinton visit was a 'kiss of life' for Irish peace — Sinn Fein

BELFAST (R) — A leading Irish Republican said Monday President Bill Clinton's Northern Ireland visit last week had given the "kiss of life" to the peace process there.

Mr. Clinton was given a rapturous welcome when he became the first serving U.S. president to visit Belfast and Londonderry, urging both Catholics and Protestants to keep working for a permanent peace in Northern Ireland.

"The visit has given the kiss of life to the peace process," Mitchell McLaughlin, chairman of Sinn Fein, told BBC Radio.

"It was in dire straits and real danger of total collapse last week but we have been given more time and let us move urgently to try to take full advantage of it."

Sinn Fein is the political wing of the IRA, which had been fighting a guerrilla war against British rule in Northern Ireland until a ceasefire was declared 15 months ago.

Mr. Clinton's visit, meeting ordinary people and politicians on all sides of the conflict, sliced through the deadlock caused by Britain's insistence that the IRA must hand over its weapons before joining all-party peace talks.

Britain and Ireland have now agreed to set up an international commission headed by former U.S. Senator George Mitchell to look at guerrilla disarmament.

They have also invited all Northern Ireland political

parties to preliminary talks leading to full-scale negotiations by the end of February.

Northern Ireland has enjoyed 15 months of peace since Protestant and Republican guerrillas declared ceasefires in 1994 in their struggle over British rule.

Huge crowds greeted Mr. Clinton on his visit, which included walkabouts, formal dinners and turning on the Christmas lights in Belfast.

Meanwhile Protestant extremists rejected an appeal Sunday to start handing in their arms to kick-start peace efforts, a politician close to guerrilla groups said.

David Trimble, leader of the pro-British Ulster Unionist Party, had earlier called on the "loyalist" armed groups to begin surrendering their weapons.

The British government has been demanding that guerrillas on both sides, including the Irish Republican Army (IRA), give up arms before they can join peace talks.

Mr. Trimble said the Protestant groups, which profess "loyalty" to Britain, could pre-empt the IRA.

"If only the loyalist paramilitaries (guerrillas) would move even without waiting for the IRA, then I think that would deprive the IRA of any possible scintilla of a justification for holding on to their weapons," he told BBC Television.

Gary McMichael of the Ulster Democratic Party,

which has close links to Protestant armed groups, rejected Mr. Trimble's idea, saying there was no question of a surrender of arms.

"Mr. Trimble's approach was discussed, but discounted immediately," Mr. McMichael said.

"It was seen as an attempt to try and manipulate the paramilitary (guerrilla) organisations. They have had enough bitter experiences of that in the past, and they were not prepared to fall into another trap."

David Ervine, spokesman for the Progressive Unionist Party, another group with ties to Protestant guerrillas, told Independent Television News that loyalists had already done enough. "The ball is firmly in the court of the IRA," he said.

Gerry Adams, leader of the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein, welcomed Mr. Trimble's suggestions. But he repeated Sinn Fein demands that the British military and the Protestant-dominated police also give up arms.

"We want to see all of the guns — the British ones, the Republican ones, the loyalist ones, the licensed ones, the ones in the hands of the police — we want all of those guns taken out of Irish politics," he told Irish Radio.

Peace efforts have been stalled since the IRA and Protestant gunmen declared ceasefires late in 1994, following a 25-year campaign by the IRA to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

Angola's UNITA accuses government of new attack

LUANDA (R) — Angola's rebel UNITA movement accused the government Monday of attacking its troops in the north of the country in violation of a year-old peace accord.

Isaias Samakuva, UNITA's representative on the Joint Peace Commission monitoring the implementation of the accord, told Angolan state radio the government had seized three areas held by UNITA in the north.

"It happens that exactly last Wednesday when the quartering of troops process started at Vila Nova, the government forces began an offensive in the northern province of Zaire which continued in the direction to Quicaba and Sumba culminating yesterday (Sunday), conquering three of our positions including Quinzan.

"(Yet) the quartering process demands that the government forces will not progress to the quartering areas of our troops," Mr. Samakuva said.

Under the peace accord signed in November last year, 15 assembly camps have been established for UNITA where troops are to be disarmed and registered before they are demobilized or absorbed into the Angolan army.

Under the peace accord, the assembly camps are referred to as quartering areas.

Mr. Samakuva said the government attacks and assembly process would top the agenda of the Joint Peace Commission, due to meet in Luanda later Monday.

"I believe that these matters will take special attention at the Joint Commission meeting. We have informed the government and the United Nations' mission," Mr. Samakuva said.

The U.N. special representative to Angola, Alioune Blondin Beye, met President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos and UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi last week to try to solve the delays in assembling troops in the camps.

Mr. Beye said he was optimistic progress had been made.

Despite the peace accord, UNITA and the government are deeply suspicious of each other and there have been dozens of ceasefire violations, although mostly on a limited scale.

Several thousand U.N. peacekeepers are helping underpin the fragile peace in Angola, where tens of thousands of people were killed and millions displaced by the war which erupted on independence from Portugal in 1975.

Big blast mars Sri Lankan army victory in Jaffna

COLOMBO (AFP) — A massive explosion Monday devastated the main government building in Sri Lanka's north, marking a spectacular army victory over Tamil guerrillas in their former citadel of Jaffna, officials said.

The deafening blast ripped through the landmark two-storey district secretariat in Jaffna City, causing the office block to crumble, but no one was injured, military officials here said.

"It was a massive explosion," a military spokesman said, adding that troops were looking for booby traps when the building blew up.

The initial suspicion is that a large quantity of explosives was packed inside the ceiling."

The secretariat is the symbol of government authority in Jaffna, which was captured by troops from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on the 47th day of Sri Lanka's biggest military offensive.

The security forces have secured a major victory for a lasting peace," a Sri Lankan minister said here Sunday in the first official reaction to Jaffna's fall, which has punctured the LTTE's image of invincibility.

The building's Tamil staff had fled weeks ago along with Jaffna's tens of thousands of residents, escaping the bitter fighting between the army and LTTE, whose sprawling de facto state was headquartered in the town.

Army commanders Sunday raised the Sri Lankan flag at the Dutch-built Jaffna Fort for the first time since 1990, and were celebrating their decisive victory over the Tigers when the explosion occurred.

The LTTE has been accused of rigging up scores of houses and buildings in Jaffna with explosives which have brought down

several concrete structures and killed or injured an unspecified number of soldiers.

Fighting, however, died down in Jaffna and the rest of the region Monday after nearly 50 days of the army offensive, which claimed the lives of at least 508 troops and 1,925 rebels.

Military officials said the army was clearing Jaffna buildings one by one, searching for hidden explosives and weapons and surviving LTTE fighters, many of whom drifted away after threatening to fight to the last man.

A senior army commander, Major General Rohan Dulawatte, said in remarks published Monday that the Tiger leadership had fled Jaffna, leaving behind only "inexperienced young cadres" to face the army.

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devolution proposals.

"The Tamil-speaking people should be liberated with dignity and with an honorable political solution," he said.

"The president has to go ahead with a political solution because local and international opinion won't allow her to break her promises."

A spokesman for the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front, which has five seats in parliament, said it was difficult to judge the public mood in the south. But he pinned hopes on government pledges that it does not want to deviate from the political process.

"To the extent the government believes its standing in the south has been strengthened by apparent successes in the north may give it confidence," he said.

Meanwhile Tamil leaders and analysts said Monday the fall of Jaffna must not distract President Kumaratunga from her promise to find a political solution to the protracted ethnic crisis.

Jaffna's fall would be a feather in the cap of Mrs. Kumaratunga and her government sitting in the Sinhalese-majority south, the analysts said.

"Tamil political parties have been extremely unhappy with the linking of the military and political approach. The political approach should be linked to Tamil entitlements, not to other considerations."

The LTTE have proved themselves masters of guerrilla warfare, attacking prime targets in Colombo at will. If the army takes Jaffna and stays put, the town would become easy prey for more of the same, an Asian diplomat said recently.

"The president has got to get back some time to the negotiating table, but at the moment she has no choice but to continue with the war."

energy of a 5.0 tremor and can cause building collapse and loss of life.

Geologists say that an earthquake that registers 7.0 to 7.9 can cause widespread heavy damage and casualties. A quake of 8.0 and above is capable of tremendous damage.

The 1985 earthquake that killed some 8,000 people in Mexico City was recorded at 8.1 on the Richter Scale, while San Francisco's famous 1906 quake measured 8.3.

never been found.

The fourth, Sergei Markidonov, was shot by his own bodyguard last month in a hotel in the southern Siberian city of Petropavlovsk-Zabaikalski, according to investigators.

Crime in Russia rose by more than 10 per cent this year compared with 1994, with a significant increase in economic crimes such as fraud. Justice Minister Valentin Kovalev said in October.

Kashmir hostages enter 6th month in captivity

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Three of four Westerners held hostage by the shadowy Al-Farhan militant group in Kashmir entered their sixth month in captivity Monday with no sign of an immediate end to the crisis.

"We have been appealing to the abductors to release the hostages before Christmas. But it is all in their hands. They have not made contact with the government for the last week," K.B. Jandial, spokesman of the Jammu and Kashmir government told Reuters.

This is by far the longest hostage crisis involving foreigners in Kashmir.

Taiwan leader blasts China but suffers double blow

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's president, resisting an election message to repair ties with China, blasted Beijing Monday but suffered a double blow as his popularity rating dropped and a senior figure opted out of the ruling party.

In Beijing, China hailed the ruling Nationalist Party's sharply diminished majority in Taiwan's parliament as a favourable outcome from Saturday's polls, saying it showed that the island's people do not want independence.

Mr. Lee remained defiant, appearing unwilling to accommodate a growing part of the electorate which voted for an opposition party favouring reconciliation with Beijing.

"Communist China's aim to suppress and even plot to isolate the Republic of China (Taiwan's official name) is impossible to be reached," a presidential office statement quoted Mr. Lee as saying.

China has held repeated recent military exercises near this island to pressure Taiwan into dropping efforts to expand its diplomatic ties and convince Taipei to move faster toward reunifying with Beijing.

Mr. Lee showed he has not budged on his stance that Taiwan, which split

with the mainland in 1949 after a civil war, cannot reunify until China becomes a democracy.

"National reunification (with China) is the goal which (Taiwan) has been seeking for a long time but the prior condition is that the mainland becomes democratic and free," the statement quoted Mr. Lee as adding.

China accused Mr. Lee of covertly supporting independence, a move that Beijing threatens it would attack Taiwan to prevent.

The ruling Nationalists, of which Mr. Lee is chairman, suffered their biggest electoral blow Saturday but hung on to a razor-thin majority of 85 seats in the 164-seat legislative Luan, down from the current 92.

The biggest gainer was the fledgling New Party, which wants to restore harmony to China relations. It tripled its representation to 21 seats.

The island's main opposition, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) which crusades for independence from China, gained four seats to 54 but found no joy in

By Rami G. Khouri

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Health service needs care

ONE SHOULD not be fooled by the latest advanced technology acquisition of the Kingdom's Royal Medical Services (RMS) into believing that all is well with one of the largest health care providers of the Kingdom. And the first to admit to the situation are the principals at RMS.

At a meeting with the press Monday, these doctors said that the JD 42 million allocated in the national budget for the Army Medical Corps was simply insufficient, particularly as 25 per cent of the Kingdom's population are beneficiaries of the services offered at nine hospitals run by the RMS. What smacks of the painful truth is that every military person is entitled to medical expense benefits for his dependents. Those dependents could easily include the military person's wife (or wives), children, parents, and divorced or widowed sisters. An average of eight people per family are covered under the military health care plan which includes primary as well as incidental health care. All this coverage is for a nominal JD 1 to JD 1.5 per month in health care premium paid by the prime beneficiary.

The minister of finance has lent a sympathetic ear to the distress signals of the RMS and even took some measures to help out in the 1996 budget. But excellence and state-of-the-art equipment come at hefty prices. In addition, another burden weighs heavily on the professional staff of the King Hussein Medical Centre (madrinah) in particular. Because the doctors in that expansive facility are among the best prepared professionally, their reputation, ironically, seems to do them a disservice. Everybody wants to be treated at the "madrinah" and they stop at no trick — the best known being "wasta" — to benefit from the expertise of the centre's staff.

No doubt then that there are complaints of long waiting lists, overcrowded conditions, and short-tempered staff. Eight other military medical facilities are staffed and equipped to care for most patient-beneficiaries in their respective areas. The RMS took additional steps to counter other shortcomings, such as installing CT-Scans and dialysis equipment in its Irbid and Karak centres. Still the vast majority of that 25 per cent of Jordanians covered under the RMS package insist on being treated at the King Hussein Medical Centre. The drain can become debilitating if the budget allocation is not increased, if the pathetic premium is not raised, and if the public is not made aware of their responsibility to the state rather than their insistence on dependency.

No matter how many suggestions, or courses of action, there are to adopt in order to help the Royal Medical Services in achieving their mission, we have to do what is necessary to support this important health sector. They have shown over the years their true worth, how with determination and irregularity they can overcome the obstacle of limited resources to perform an excellent job. True, Jordan's health delivery system needs to be overhauled. But the Royal Medical Services are, have been, on the right track. With some effort and extra funding on the state's part, they can be made into the right example to follow in what needs to be done in the country's public health sector as a whole.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IBRAHIM AL ABSI, a writer in Al Ra'i, expressed the view that the battle of the final phase of negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis has begun. He cited the Israeli foreign minister's statements in which he declared Israel's intention to retain control over all of Jerusalem, the borders and the settlements as a clear signal of the Jewish state's final position. He said the foreign minister's statements, coupled with a demand by the Israeli prime minister that the Palestinians change their charter and delete all phrases calling for the destruction of Israel even before the completion of the redeployment, are clear indications of Israel's adamant position of preventing the Palestinians from establishing their independent state. Under the Oslo agreement questions like the future status of Jerusalem, the Palestine refugees and the settlements are to be discussed in the final phase of the negotiations, but it seems that the Israelis have made up their mind in advance, which means that they accept no discussion over these crucial matters, said the writer. He said that it remains to be seen whether the Palestinian leadership would handle this situation with firmness or succumb to Israel's dictated terms.

COMMENTING ON the results of the Egyptian parliamentary elections, a writer in Al Dustour said that the Egyptian regime is facing a real crisis following the exclusion of opposition parties from the national assembly and for rigging the elections. Yasser Zaatreh said the opposition groups, mainly the Islamists, who enjoy wide public support and the Copts, who were denied seats in parliament, together form a real powerful force that is bound to cause serious headaches to the government. Indeed, with the manipulation of the election results, the regime has served a deadly blow to any form of democracy and paved the ground for an all-out popular opposition, hostile to the government and opposing all its moves. This attitude on the part of the Egyptian regime is bound to create confrontation between the government and the Egyptian social institutions and political groups, who do not see eye to eye with most government policies, added the writer. In addition to rigging the election results, the regime has antagonised the professional unions, especially the lawyers which represent the views of the educated elite and has thus surrounded itself with an ocean of enmity unprecedented in Egypt's history.

The View from Fourth Circle

The refreshing review of political sins, justice, decency

Kuwait!

In Italy, former prime minister Giulio Andreotti is on trial for assorted charges of financial and political misconduct and for allegedly doing secret deals with the mafia.

Why are these cases and others like them significant? For two reasons, I would suggest, one related to the officials and the other to the citizenry. First, these cases emphasise the importance of the concept of responsibility and trust in public life, the idea that public servants are there to serve the people, and not to enrich themselves. This is about the integrity of society, about communities, governments and entire nations that can function in a manner that satisfies the vast majority of their people, because public power is being used rationally in the service of the people, and public wealth is not being siphoned off to the pockets of public officials, their children, cousins or guards.

Second, trials of former officials charged with abuse of power emphasise the importance of dignity and self-respect in the eyes of the citizenry, the idea that ordinary folks are human beings with a sufficiently fine sense of our own worth that makes us resent being treated like sheep or simpletons. Some incompetence among our officials we can handle. A touch of the bon vivant is almost dazzling. The occasional provincial buffoonery is even amusing. But theft, corruption, repression and death are unacceptable, and, sooner or later, they will be dealt with. That is the message we hear these days from around the world, including from parts of the Middle East, where the citizenry has long been fascinated by the spectacle of ordinary folks achieving public fame and wealth so dehumanising experience to be treated by your own public officials like a fool, or an inconsequential and stupid animal. One can understand such behaviour at the hands of foreign military occupiers, but not at the hands of one's own nationals, or neighbours.

Holding former officials responsible for their indecent or violent actions is a constructive act, a cleansing and healing act that relieves society of pent-up stress and paves the way for decency and honourable nationhood. This non-lethal, non-violent act of justice is usually sufficient to make degraded people feel a rejuvenated sense of pride and humanity, where they had once suffered sustained humiliation and dehumanisation. Attempts to seek justice for society as a whole and to punish the abusive bad guys must be carried out in a manner that affirms justice, trust and fairness — so that these values can form the platform from which reinvigorated individuals and refreshed societies work for a better future.

The biggest test of any country is not how well it can build roads or schools, or administer bureaucracies or operate parliaments, but rather how well it can administer a system of justice that is creditable to its own people. Justice is merely the collective expression of an individual's sense of self-worth and integrity. There is justice in the land when individuals feel that they can have their day in court, when they have means of expressing their own ideas, when their desires and rights are carefully considered by those who wield power, and when their feelings and emotions are taken into consideration in the formulation of public policy. Justice is not only about courts and judges and

lawyers. It is also about the relationship of trust and responsibility between those who wield public power, and those who form the public in whose name power is wielded.

Abuse of power, public theft, corruption, unnecessary autocracy, unprovoked intellectual or physical violence by the state against its own people, and other ugly things endured for decades around the world because the prevailing cold war order tolerated them as necessary evils that were subservient to larger goals. Today, such degradations are deemed unacceptable, and we already witness the inevitable backlash against the misdeeds and grievances of the recent past.

Many in or near the seats of power today will ask the ordinary folks to forget the past, and instead to look to the future. That's good practical advice, but it is the moral equivalent of Swiss cheese — full of holes. The redress of grievances through non-violent and reconciliatory means is not only a political imperative for any society; it is also a core moral foundation for the three great monotheistic religions of Christianity, Islam and Judaism, which declare that our deeds will be judged by God after our days on earth have finished. Same judicial principle; different time frame, jurisdiction, and venue.

Holding people responsible for their past crimes is an act of humanism, not barbarism; it allows a politically polluted society to cleanse the air, to start afresh, to seek to live an honourable and humble life devoid of the excesses of either official brutality or individual indignation. When public officials who committed verifiable crimes are brought to justice and punished according to the humane dictates of the law, no further apologies are necessary, no blood money sought, no vindictive killings required. The act of justice itself clears the air of anger, rids the spirit of meanness.

These are important issues for the world, as we see this month, and they are also important for the people of the Middle East. Our Semitic landscape still suffers the multiple, cumulative agonies of misdeeds carried out by many different parties during this most violent and trying century. It is crucial that we of the resident Semitic family of Christians, Muslims and Jews start to work together to determine how we will deal with the physical, moral and intellectual atrocities of the past, whether committed within countries or between countries, whether against captured soldiers in the desert or children in schools, whether by state armies or private militia, by elected executives or self-appointed savages. Some amongst us want to forget the past, but the whole world is saying that the past cannot be forgotten so quickly, so dismissively.

The whole world today is saying that justice is necessary and good, that people must take responsibility for their past actions in office, even well after they leave office. From the world's new power brokers in Washington, London, Paris, Bonn and other centres of merchandising of global political morality, we seem to hear only applause. This is most novel, and most refreshing. Will justice and punishment for the misdeeds of past public offenders emerge as the new foundation for political morality that is truly universal? Because it is truly impartial? Let us hope so, and keep watching, in the deserts as in the mountains and cities.

Bosnia: Remember Somalia?

By Gwynne Dyer

"REMEMBER SOMALIA?" We, too, will drag the bodies of dead soldiers through the streets."

The Bosnian Serb who made that remark to a Western journalist on the morrow of the Bosnian peace deal in Dayton, Ohio, was not just talking tough. He was referring to a strategy that has served the Bosnian Serbs well in the past, and is almost certain to have one more outing before the 60,000-strong Implementation Force (Ifor) deploys in Bosnia in mid-December.

Indeed, if the strategy works as it did in the past, the U.S. Congress might even refuse to back President Bill Clinton's promise to send 20,000 U.S. troops to Bosnia to enforce the Dayton agreement. And if the American troops don't show up, then probably nobody else will either.

Right now, many Bosnian Serbs are thinking the same thought. If they can create a spectacular incident and kill a substantial number of peace-keeping troops (preferably from the

American vanguard force that starts arriving this week, but any U.N. troops will do in a pinch), then the rest of the American force may never be sent. And then they won't have to give up Sarajevo.

So kids a some peacekeepers (as they have done many times before), but this time kill them before the television cameras. The objective would be to create the same kind of panic that swept the United States after 18 U.S. soldiers were killed in a fire fight in Mogadishu in 1993.

Nobody in the United States observed that when you commit soldiers to combat, people die. Nobody noted that the American troops acquitted themselves very well, killing an estimated 364 Somali militiamen during the night's fighting, even though they had no armour, artillery or air support.

The American public gazed in horror at the T.V. pictures of U.S. soldiers' bodies being dragged through the streets, and demanded out. The American component of the peace-keeping force was gone in a

month, and the whole attempt to rebuild a civil government in Somalia collapsed shortly thereafter. Somalia was left to its fate — which is already renewed civil war, and will eventually be renewed famine, too.

If the same kind of panic in the United States is to save the Bosnian Serbs from having to submit to the terms of the Dayton agreement, then they must generate it before the full strength of Ifor is deployed.

Once President Bill Clinton has actually sent 20,000 American troops to Bosnia, he cannot promptly withdraw them again without a fatal loss of political face.

At that point, it becomes simpler for him to tough it out whatever the cost. But during the next two or three weeks, Congress, the American public, and even Mr. Clinton himself could be frightened off by a sufficiently horrifying incident.

Why would the Bosnian Serbs do such a thing? Because they are the major losers of the Dayton accord, being required, among other things to give up five suburbs of Sarajevo

home to about 600,000 Serbs, that they have held since the beginning of the war.

Many would say that the Bosnian Serbs richly deserve to be the losers, given that they started the war and were the main perpetrators of ethnic cleansing and genocide during it. Some would add out that they were losing badly on the battlefields in the weeks before the ceasefire last autumn, and that the treaty saved them from even worse losses had the war continued.

Nevertheless, they are being required to hand over territories to Bosnian government control that they still held, and were in no immediate danger of losing, at the war's end. And they didn't expect them to be signed away at Dayton.

Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, who negotiated on behalf of the Bosnian Serbs at Dayton (since their own leaders are indicted war criminals who face arrest if they go abroad), had his own reasons for making these concessions. He desperately wanted a peace deal so

that the United Nations would lift its crippling trade sanctions against his country.

But the Bosnian Serb reluctance was so great that Mr. Milosevic literally did not tell their leaders the terms of the deal until the morning of the signing ceremony in Dayton. And even now, they have not really accepted it.

"President" Radovan Karadzic has formally accepted the deal on behalf of the Bosnian Serb government, but in a familiar old ploy, he has added that he cannot be blamed if his citizens rebel against it. Ominously, General Ratko Mladic, who probably wields more real power than Mr. Karadzic, has not said anything at all. And both men have every reason to sabotage the Dayton agreement, because it requires that they both leave power.

So there is ample dry tinder available, and several weeks in which the Bosnian Serb leaders could ignite it (deniably, of course) into savage attacks on lightly armed peace-keepers. With the ultimate goal of scaring the Americans into staying home.

LETTERS

Learning to listen

To the Editor:

IN HER letter to the editor, "An anticrime programme is needed" (Jordan Times, Dec. 3), Lina Muasher Owais addressed a significant subject. I am extremely impressed with the awakening of my fellow Jordanian citizens to the subject of abuse. Ms. Owais stresses the need for further assistance in the healing of criminals and their victims through psychological counseling, which I fully agree and support, and would like to expand a little more upon.

Abuse is usually thought of and generalised by the public as physical beatings or sexual molestation by peers and adults towards women and children. People tend to ignore the fact that abuse takes many forms and does not discriminate against colour, gender, age and/or social status. The most significant form of abuse, that in most cases slips by unnoticed, is verbal abuse, which is just as effective in creating a

life-long sense of guilt and anger as sexual molestation does. Most people never realise the effect of a few harsh or irresponsible words repeated over and again until it is too late, that is when most people ask themselves Ohhh! where have we gone wrong? and that is when we realise that the problem is ignorance on the part of most parents. Ignorance is not a bad word; it just means lack of knowledge, the lack of knowledge in the art of listening and how to read-between-the-lines so that parents can help with their children's needs by understanding. Once they understand is when they will accept, and that is truly what all children need: acceptance. Not knowing how to listen is the real family killer, which in-turn becomes the society destroyer and hence develops a dysfunctional society.

Parenting is the base and back-bone of society and civilisation as we want it to be. This is where we have to focus our attention and energy. If parents are

helped, then sexual, physical and verbal abuse will be reduced. In turn, crime will also be reduced. Psychologists and therapists along with the Ministry of Health and the local media have to get together and brain-storm to create a kind of educational system that would help the entire nation and not just the people who call up enough courage to be treated and helped by counseling.

Robert T. Nazzal
Amman

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Tell Abu El Kharaz: Uncovering early urbanism, rewriting historical chronology

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AFTER A survey and six seasons of excavations at Tell Abu El Kharaz in the north Jordan Valley, a Swedish team from the University of Göteborg has expanded our knowledge of early human urbanism and trade, while also pushing back the accepted chronology of historical periods in the Levant region and perhaps even in Egypt.

The Swedish team, headed by Peter Fischer of the university's classical studies department, has uncovered substantial urban remains from three distinct periods — the Early and Late Bronze Ages and the Iron Age — spanning the time period from approximately 3400-600 BC.

Tell Abu El Kharaz ("Mound of the Father of Beads") flourished in antiquity primarily because of its strategic location in a rich natural environment. Sited near plentiful water from the adjacent Wadi Yabis and bountiful woodlands in its eastern hills, five kilometres south of Pella, it occupies the flat top of a large natural hill with steep slopes that were easy to defend. The 60-metre-high hill with accumulated debris from the ancient town is partly natural. The site's height and position provide a panoramic view of the north Jordan Valley. On a clear day, from the site one can see the hills of Nazareth and the area around Tell Es Sa'idiyah in the central valley. Due to its strategic position, in ancient times the site controlled the main road through the Jordan Valley and the secondary road along the Wadi Yabis to the highlands to the east.

The earliest settlement yet revealed by the excavations dates from the Early Bronze Age IB. The traditional scholarly consensus dates the Early Bronze (EB) Age from approximately 3300-2000 BC, but Dr. Fischer's Carbon-14 dating of over 20 samples from the site is pushing back the chronology of these early urban periods. His Carbon-14 dates indicate that the EB period should start around 3400-3300 BC and the EBII period around 3600 BC, and this date seems to correlate with similar information from the British-led excavation at Tell Esh Shouf North. It is possible that the information generated from the north

Jordan Valley may spark a reconsideration of the dating of some of the early Egyptian chronological/cultural periods, e.g. the predynastic Naqada III period of Upper Egypt.

The EBII settlement at Tell Abu El Kharaz may have been a walled town or simply an open settlement. Its material goods included imported Egyptian pottery — the first of its kind ever found in the east or west banks of the valley from this period.

The beginning of the EBII period is contemporaneous with the First Dynasty of Egypt, c. 3150-2800 BC for the EBII period, according to Dr. Fischer, as opposed to the traditional dating of 3000-2700 BC for EBII. In this period, the settlement at Tell Abu El Kharaz was protected by a massive city wall whose all-stone foundations measured 3.5 metres wide and at least four metres high, meaning the actual wall above ground probably rose another three or four metres high and was constructed of mudbrick. This is thought to be the only excavated wall of its kind from the EBII period in Jordan, and maybe in all of Palestine as well. Numerous test trenches revealed parts of the EBII town, which for its time covered a relatively large area of three-four hectares. Inside the town were houses made of mudbrick walls on stone foundations, whose inhabitants were quite well off, to judge by their pottery, jewellery, beads, shells, mace heads, pins and metal weapons made of a copper alloy and the large amount of stored grain found.

EBII material cultural remains also included "Abydos ware" (pottery produced in Palestine and exported to Egypt), many large, complete storage jars measuring a metre high, and some fascinating little cylinder seals that were used to make geometric patterns on pottery. The seals are made of bone and hippopotamus ivory; it is not clear if the hippo ivory was imported from Egypt or Cyprus or came from local hippos.

The EBII town shows at least three major destruction phases, due to reasons as yet undetermined. Similar destruction levels have been identified at Tell Es Sa'idiyah in the central valley. After the EBII town, the site appears to have been abandoned for a very long time — about 1300



The male warrior-god statue that was excavated from Iron Age II levels but certainly dates from the earlier Late Bronze Age period. In his right hand he holds a weapon and in his left papyrus scroll; he has ostrich plumes on his head and the holy cobra on his forehead. (Photo by A. Nilsson)



Dr. Fischer stands on the smaller Early Bronze II city wall towers above Bronze I city wall, while the much larger him. (Photo by R. Holmgren)

years. This long break from c.2800-1500 BC is surprising because nearby sites such as Peila and Tell Deir Alla have substantial town remains from this time, especially from the Middle Bronze period; further excavations will reveal if Tell Abu El Kharaz had a similar or different occupational history.

The next identifiable occupation phase was in the Late Bronze I period, starting around 1530 BC, i.e. the beginning of the New Kingdom, the 18th Dynasty, in Egypt. The town seems to have become smaller since the Early Bronze Age, and the city wall changed from a solid, massive structure into a casemate wall (two parallel stone walls with side walls in between them forming rooms within the wall). Some mudbrick sections of the city wall still stand on their stone foundations. Domestic architecture continued the forms of the Early Bronze Age. Many finds from this period include excellently manufactured and very well preserved pottery (Chocolate-on-White and burnished Bichrome) that parallels

The town's people seemed to continue to enjoy their relatively wealthy status, judging by their imported goods from Cyprus and other places in the east Mediterranean region. Small finds from this period include excellently manufactured and very well preserved pottery (Chocolate-on-White and burnished Bichrome) that parallels

The nicely decorated bone handle excavated from Iron II levels. (Photo by R. Holmgren)

pottery found in Palestine and on the Mediterranean coast. Petrographic analyses of the clay reveal that these vessels were produced in the Jordan Valley, rather

than elsewhere as previously thought. A beautiful little stamp seal made of white alabaster carries the design of two antelopes leaning against a tree. A hole in it



suggests it was worn like a necklace and used as a personal seal.

The next major town at Tell Abu El Kharaz dates from the Iron Age, when

the people's economic status seems to have declined somewhat, according to more coarse pottery and fewer imported materials. The city wall (?) from the Iron I period (c.1200-1000 BC) indicates a continuing need for defensive systems, and the architectural remains from the Iron II period (c.1000-600 BC) include towers and well built houses whose people resumed importing goods from the eastern Mediterranean region.

The material remains found from the Iron II period include an exquisite decorated bone handle with a motif of two sphinxes that has parallels at Hazor in Palestine and Nimrud in Assyria. This Palestinian-made type of handle was certainly brought to Nimrud with the returning Assyrian invaders who occupied this area around 720 BC. Other interesting Iron Age II finds include a

clay mask of a bearded and smiling young male painted in red, attached originally to an anthropomorphic vessel; a decorated stone cosmetic plate; and a small, very well preserved bronze-silver statue of a male warrior-god from an obviously religious context — with lion and human legs resembling the Egyptian goddess Sechmet. The statue seems to be a local male copy of the Egyptian female original; though it was found in an Iron Age context, it almost certainly dates originally from the Late Bronze Age, i.e., it was kept for centuries because of its religious importance.

The excavations have been financed primarily by the Swedish government via the former Swedish Board for Investment and Technical Support (now SIDA), and staff and logistical support have been given by the Jordanian Department of Antiquities and Yarmouk University (represented by Zeidan Kafaf). The dig is affiliated with Göteborg University in Sweden and has received assistance in Amman from the American Centre for Oriental Research. The excavators have also expressed their appreciation for support and encouragement from Their Royal Highnesses Prince Raad and Princess Maja.

The material wellbeing and duration of the Bronze and Iron Age towns at Tell Abu El Kharaz speak much about ancient wealth in Jordanian urbanism. This wealth reflected extensive trading in the east Mediterranean region, but was built on a solid foundation of local agricultural and cattle-breeding. Surplus grain produced in the Jordan Valley financed imported goods from Egypt, Cyprus, Syria and Greece. Why the town became smaller over time remains to be determined. It could be due to climatic changes, degradation of local soil or water resources, or deteriorating political conditions.

The large size and thick walls of the Bronze Age towns may also reflect the site's role in antiquity; this fertile region had many smaller, open farming and livestock hamlets or villages, whose residents may have fled to the walled citadel for protection in times of war.

However, efforts are being made by the excavators and the Department of Antiquities to consolidate excavated and exposed structures, especially the important Early Bronze city wall, the Late Bronze casemate defence system, and the Late Bronze Age "bakery". This aims to preserve important historical architecture and also to allow visitors a better appreciation of the city in its glory days. New efforts will be made in future to raise additional funding to consolidate some of these important ancient structures that may be unique in some cases, and therefore of global as well as local and regional interest.

King receives Russian message

(Continued from page 1)

Following the meeting, Mr. Posavayuk told Jordan Television that he briefed Mr. Kabariti on the outcome of his current regional tour which has already taken him to Syria, Lebanon, Israel and the Gaza Strip.

"There are positive signs to push forward the peace process," he said.

GCC leaders open summit

(Continued from page 1)

Saad Qasim Hamoudi as saying: "Future relations among Gulf states make it necessary for these states to be open with Iraq, which is an important element of stability in this sensitive region."

"The continuation of the pretext that Iraq should implement all U.N. resolutions misses the fact that Iraq has met all commitments towards these resolutions," said Mr. Hamoudi, a senior member of the ruling Baath Party.

Sheikh Zayed said in October the time had come for lifting sanctions on Baghdad to ease the suffering of the Iraqi people and restore the country to the Arab fold.

Qatar and Oman backed the call, but it raised concern

in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, who still insist on a tougher line.

Sheikh Zayed said his country would continue talks with Iran to resolve a row over three disputed Gulf islands — the Greater Tumb, the Lesser Tumb and Abu Musa. If this failed, the UAE would go to the International Court of Justice.

UAE and Iranian experts, at their first meetings since unsuccessful talks in Abu Dhabi in 1992, failed to agree recently on an agenda to solve the row.

"Iran does not want to give the right to its owners," Sheikh Zayed said. "They want to negotiate to take, not to give. This is impossible. Our position is clear, you know it, and the world knows it: They have attacked us."

visions that held up this right. But, the SSC official argued, the law that established the corporation stipulates such payments would come either in the form of a one-time payment or monthly payments as opted by the beneficiary at the time of retirement.

"We are sure that the Appeals Court, once it closely studies the provisions of the law that established the Social Security Corporation, will reverse the Court of First Instance decision," said the official.

The employee's lawyer, Samar Assaf, argued that the end-of-service payment was the right of every Jordanian worker and it could not be nullified or substituted regardless of pension or any other benefits. She cited several rulings and legal pro-

JPA protests amendments

(Continued from page 1)

board, said the board's 19 members unanimously decided to reject all proposed amendments.

If the government insisted on these changes, the JPA would launch an organised campaign through the press and the Lower House of Parliament to counter it, he said.

"We studied the amendments in full and we see an infringement on press freedoms and a set back to the gains made in comparison with the previous law," Mr. Hiyari said. "The proposed amendments are worse than martial law."

Although Mr. Hiyari agreed on the need to amend the current law, he said that any proposed amendments should be a step further in the democratic process in the country.

"We would request for a meeting with the prime minister or the King if need be," he added.

"Iran does not want to give the right to its owners,"

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Brotherhood: No cabinet role

(Continued from page 12)

countries are going back to the ages of nationalisation."

Deploring violence and condemning terrorism, the Brotherhood leader insisted that the Brotherhood's ways would be peaceful.

In Egypt, "they adopted violent means after the failure of the democratic experiment. The ruling party usurped parliament seats to itself but the Muslim Brotherhood (in Egypt) did not employ violent means and they condemned violence."

Mr. Thuneibat said he believed that the West was launching campaigns against Islam.

"Violence exists everywhere... in Japan, in France, in Egypt, everywhere," he said. "It is not limited to Muslim countries."

Although he said that the Brotherhood was not asked to participate in future cabinet in Jordan and the issue was not discussed with the Brotherhood, Mr. Thuneibat declared that the group would not participate even if it was asked to.

"Our general interest does not compel us to participate in the government for the time being," he said. "This is based on our principles."

Mr. Thuneibat criticised the concept of confederation between Jordan and Palestinian entity.

"How can we forge a confederation between a country and people on a land over which they have no sovereignty?" he asked. "It is one form of liquidating the Palestinian issue."

He also criticised calls for a federation in Iraq and said these concepts were part of what he described as the Zionist scheme to divide the region.

Mr. Thuneibat claimed that his criticism of the gov-

NATO troops in ex-Yugoslavia

(Continued from page 1)

part in the mission.

One of arriving soldiers, Eric Johnson, said he was part of the U.N. mission based in Split and, after a three-week break, was coming to Sarajevo as part of the new NATO force.

The front, which insisted on nominating Abdullah Akaiyah for the House speakership, withdrew at last minute because of what observers believed as its limited chances to win the race. The IAF also lost the race to the post of deputy speaker and did not nominate any candidate for other posts.

"It is not because we failed in parliament that we are demonstrating our opposition," Mr. Thuneibat said. "We have always fought for freedom of expression and freedom of the press within the general framework."

Mr. Thuneibat insisted that freedom of the press should be in line with Islamic values and traditions.

"We will oppose any amendments through parliament, press and political parties," he said. "But we should not be giving the government any justification to repress freedom of the press."

Mr. Thuneibat referred to a case he filed against the weekly Al Bilad newspaper two weeks ago for publishing a cartoon that "tarnished the image of Islam."

Asked if this action was in contradiction with the movement's claims in defence of press freedom, Mr. Thuneibat said "Freedom of expression does not mean infringement on the general ethics and morals."

His statement was not helpful to the overall peace process to say the least," said Alexander Ivankovic, a U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo.

President Clinton has responded to French concerns about the fate of the Sarajevo Serbs under the Bosnia peace plan, the White House said Monday.

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Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1995 9

Asian press industry told to adapt to changing demands

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Asian newspaper magnates began a three-day meeting here Monday on the problems and prospects of an industry lifted by rising regional affluence and literacy and troubled by growing costs and competition.

"Like all other industries, the newspaper industry is also going through a revolution," Singapore's information minister, George Yeo, told the inaugural Asian Newspaper Publishers Conference and Exhibition.

"The newspaper industry is

being submerged into a large and less structured multi-media industry," Mr. Yeo said in a keynote speech to an audience of 350 newspaper owners and executives from 22 countries.

"The electronic media will increasingly compete with the print media. Broadcasting will give way to narrowcasting," Mr. Yeo said.

Mr. Yeo called on news organisations to take a "think globally and act locally" approach to survive and prosper in the face of competition, noting how demands on

newspapers changed from country to country.

"Every city has its own quirks, its own tastes, its own sense of humour and its own taboos," the Singapore minister said.

"In Thailand, you cannot show disrespect to the monarchy. In Malaysia, you must be mindful of what Islam disallows. The newspapers and television stations which succeed are those which are closest to local audiences and readers," he added.

Media baron Rupert Mur-

doch's far-flung press empire had succeeded because its different parts were able to "localise," he said, stressing the importance of commercial viability in the news business.

When the Chinese voiced displeasure with BBC World Vision, Mr. Murdoch took it off the STAR TV network, Mr. Yeo said.

"In Hong Kong, as happened in Malaysia and Singapore independence, media owners are already adjusting to a new political reality after 1997," Mr. Yeo said. "To expect otherwise is naive."

Journalists would like to be independent and portray what they wish but in the end "it is the economic reality which is fundamental," the Singapore information minister said.

The delegates are due to discuss the opportunities and challenges presented by the global computer network, the

Internet, which is increasing ly dissolving national barriers.

Illustrating the impact of the Internet, Mr. Yeo cited the recent rape of a young Okinawan girl by three American G.I.s which he said had led many to wonder whether the attackers were "white, black, brown or yellow."

"The newspapers provided no clue, television pictures gave no indication. In the end, one had a log into Internet to find out. Increasingly, Internet and the proliferation of small media will break up the cartel control of ideas by big newspapers and big TV stations," he said.

Singapore does not disguise its dislike for Western-style free-wheeling journalism and has won costly libel suits against foreign publications.

Peter Kam, chairman of Dow Jones and Company Inc., lectured the convention

on the failings of American journalism.

He said the lines between journalism and entertainment and news and opinion were being blurred, and the media suffered from a short attention span.

"There are too many instant celebrities and too many two-day crises," he said, citing U.S. opinion polls that rated the press "rather below politicians" in credibility.

The delegates will discuss new opportunities for the newspaper industry presented by Asia's breakthrough economic growth and rising literacy, with every percentage point rise in literacy estimated to add 20 million potential new readers.

The world's biggest newsprint suppliers are also at the convention. The cost of paper has soared worldwide, in part because of huge demand in emerging Asian markets.

DAILY BUSINESS

Business news from the Arabic press

World coffee prices decline but remain high in Jordan

** THE CONSUMER Protection Society has asked the Ministry of Supply to intervene and return coffee to the list of products which have their prices fixed by the ministry, as traders are not responding to the international decline in coffee prices. In a memorandum sent to the minister, the association said that despite the fact that coffee prices have dropped over the past six months by about 50 per cent of the levels reached in 1994, traders have not reduced prices in accordance with the international trend. "At first, they justified keeping the same prices because they had large quantities in storage but the situation could not be so after the lapse of six months," the memorandum said.

Traders and local importers of coffee said that if international prices keep on falling, prices may drop here, but that could take some time. On the international level, prices of coffee are likely to continue falling over the coming days as a result of speculation among world traders.

The head of the association of foodstuff traders said the association is continuously asking coffee merchants to reduce prices whenever world prices decline. He added that if the merchants do not lower prices on their own during the coming few days, the association will send a circular to all coffee merchants stressing the need to lower prices. However, he noted that prices were still unstable and fluctuating and, as such, it is difficult to arrive at a stable price for the consumer. Prices of first grade coffee currently range between JD 4.800 and JD 4.600 a kilogramme which prices of robusta coffee range between JD 4.400 and JD 4.200 a kilogramme.

The ministry stressed that lower international prices should reflect on lower prices on the local market. A ministry official said that the ministry will be asking merchants to reduce prices which have been floated long time ago (Al Ra'i + Al Dustour).

Royal Wings to start flights to Aqaba from January 1996

* A NEW airline will be launched next year to meet increasing demand for transport services between Middle East countries, an airline official said Monday. Ramzi Shweihat, managing director of Arab Wings, said the new firm will offer shuttle services between Amman and neighbouring cities such as Cairo, Damascus, Tel Aviv and the Palestinian autonomous Gaza Strip. "The initial stage will include trips to the Red Sea resort of Aqaba until we agree with neighbouring countries on arrangements for operating the new carrier," Mr. Shweihat said. The capital for the new airline, Royal Wings, has not yet been specified. But it will be financed by the national carrier, Royal Jordanian, and its affiliate, Arab Wings. Mr. Shweihat said small planes with a capacity of 50 passengers will be leased for the new services (AP).

Consumer Protection Society threatens to take TCC to court

** THE CONSUMER Protection Society requested the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) to honour the agreements with telephone subscribers that specify the number of free telephone calls entitled to each subscriber. The society said any change should be limited to new subscribers and should not affect old subscribers. In a memorandum to the TCC's director-general, the society said that many people are asking the society to intervene and stop the corporation from cancelling all free phone calls benefiting limited income groups. It added that by lowering charges for international phone calls, the TCC would only be benefiting people of high-income group. The memorandum warned that if the TCC insists on cancelling the free calls, the society will be forced to take the matter to court for a final say on the agreement between the subscribers and the TCC (Al Dustour).

Forte to float restaurants, sell Savoy stake

LONDON (R) — British hotels group Forte, seeking to ward off a hostile £3.3 billion (\$5 billion) bid from

Group.

Forte said the restaurants business would be floated as an independent company, leaving Forte shareholders with a stake in the largest listed British restaurants business and a share in one of the world's leading hotel companies.

"We are creating two focused investment vehicles which are in line with the strategy of the 1990s rather than a 1980-style conglomerate," said Forte director of communications Richard Power.

Forte, in its defence against the bid, has dubbed Granda an outdated "acquisition machine." Granda runs two British commercial television franchises, a string of rental shops for electrical goods and, like Forte, has its own chain of roadside restaurants.

Granda launched its assault on the family-run Forte empire on Nov. 22, offering four new Granda shares and £23.25 (\$35.7) for every 15 Forte shares with a 321.67 pence (\$4.94) a share cash alternative.

Forte's Power said that the company had been working on the demerger for some time but that Granda's move had forced it to reveal its hand earlier than planned.

The restaurant company will operate mainly in Britain and France and include the Little Chef, Happy Eater, Welcome Break and Cote France brands.

Granda chief executive Gerry Robinson was scornful of the Forte move. "This intended demerger is ill-conceived and smacks of desperation in the face of our offer," he said. "There are important synergies between hotels and catering which would be lost through a merger."

Financial Markets		Jordan Times			
		in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets					
Currency					
New York Close	Tokyo Close				
1/12/95	4/12/95				
Sterling Pound	1.5310	1.5351**			
Deutsche Mark	1.4457	1.4355			
Swiss Franc	1.1775	1.1660**			
French Franc	4.9880	4.9826**			
Japanese Yen	101.19	101.15			
European Currency Unit	1.2763	1.2810**			
* USD Per STG ** European Opening + 100 basis points					

Foreign currency interest rates				
Date: 4/12/1995				
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.68	5.56	5.37	5.31
Sterling Pound	0.43	0.31	0.18	0.18
Deutsche Mark	3.81	3.68	3.62	3.56
Swiss Franc	2.06	1.87	1.75	1.75
French Franc	6.50	6.50	6.30	6.45
Japanese Yen	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
European Currency Unit	5.43	5.37	5.26	5.21

Precious Metals		Date: 4/12/1995	
Metal	USDOz	JD/Gm*	JD/Gm
Gold	368.60	7.50	8.20

Other Currencies		Date: 4/12/1995	
Currency	Bid	Offer	
Emirati Dinar	1.8620	1.8780	
Lebanese Lira	0.044100	0.044600	
Saudi Riyal	0.1870	0.1898	
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.5070	2.3670	
Qatari Riyal	0.1932	0.1945	
Egyptian Pound	0.2100	0.2200	
Omani Riyal	1.8330	1.8410	
UAE Dirham	0.5982	0.5985	
Greek Drachma	0.2600	0.2607	
Cypriot Pound	1.4800	1.5500	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES	
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.	
One U.S. dollar	1.3646/56
1.4354/64	1.6076/86
1.1652/62	29.51/55
4.9996/46	1596.19/6
100.90/00	6.5620/20
6.3300/91	5.5591/91
1.4127/37	0.7387/92
7.7350/66	0.7387/92
One sterling	\$1.5330/40
One ounce of gold	\$385.70/386.20

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HINARI
OF ENGLAND

Snowboarding skates on thin ice at Winter Olympics

KARUIZAWA, Japan (AFP) — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) executive board opened a four-day meeting here Monday to add the trendy mountain resort pastime of snowboarding to the Olympic lineup.

But the move will add to the burdens of the 1998 Winter Games in nearby Nagano and will not necessarily ensure its future.

The Nagano organisers finally agreed to the proposal from IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch to accept snowboarding — on condition that 60 per cent of the 1.3 billion yen (\$13 million) cost of the extra event be paid by the IOC and the International Ski Federation (FIS).

Samaranch has called snowboarding — which started in American ski resorts around two decades ago — "very important winter sport."

"In Europe and maybe in Japan, more than 50 per cent of young people are on snowboards," Samaranch said during a previous trip to Japan in August. "It would be a pity if Nagano was not the first to accept snowboarding."

Snowboarding, a fast growing industry with widespread television appeal, is expected to be approved as an Olympic event on Tuesday when Nagano organisers report on preparations for the 1998 Games, now expanded to a record 68 events in seven sports.

Curling and women's ice hockey also been added to the Nagano programme. The operational budget has been hiked from 40 billion yen to 76-billion yen and threatens to top 100 billion yen.

Organisational problems also remain as the International Ski Federation has to deal with the International Snowboard Federation (ISF) in bringing the world's best snowboarders to Nagano.

With 6,500 licensed members, the ISF is not affiliated



**COMMISSION EXÉCUTIVE DU C.I.O.
RUIZAWA, NAGANO - DÉCEMBRE 1995
EXÉCUTIVE BOARD AND AIWF MEETIN
RUIZAWA, NAGANO - DECEMBER 1995**

Nagano, where the 1998 Winter Games are due to be held (Reuters photo)

International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch presides over the IOC Executive Board meeting in Karuizawa.

to the IOC but does control the sport's World Pro Tour. The ISF has yet to decide, though, on whether it will let members compete in the Olympics.

"There has been heated debate and the ISF's continental branches will shortly discuss what they should do," said Shigeru Yamada, secretary general of the Japanese Snowboard Association (JSBA).

Yamada said his association would cooperate with the Japanese Ski Federation.

Simonet confirmed reports in the sports daily L'Equipe about the three cases but suggested so-called recreational drugs were involved and that there was no evidence to suggest players were trying to cheat.

Bordeaux reserve goalkeeper Franck Fontan was suspended for two months on Thursday but no action has yet been taken against the other two players — Monaco goalkeeper Fabien Barthel and Stephane Paille, formerly of Mulhouse — pending the results of B sample tests.

Simonet declined to say which drugs were involved in the tests. "There are two separate problems. There are players who try to enhance their performances and others who are victims of a habit of using banned substances," he said.

"There is no widespread taking of performance-enhancing substances here. I don't think we are talking about cheats in these cases."

Barthez, who failed his test after a league match in Nantes on October 3, refused to comment. The Monaco goalkeeper, who won the European Cup with Marseille two years ago, is currently second choice behind Bernard Lama in the national team.

Paille, a much-travelled international striker who has played abroad for Porto in Portugal and Servette in Switzerland, retired from the sport after failing a test on September 23 following a second division game with Niort.

But he told L'Equipe his retirement was due to serious personal problems and had nothing to do with the affair.

Simonet said that B sample tests requested by both players had been taken and that the results were expected this week.

Fontan was found to be positive after the Bordeaux V Montpellier match on September 22 when he was selected for a random test even though he was only on the substitutes' bench.

Bordeaux club President Alain Afflelou said Fontan would not be paid for the two months of his suspension.

"It's unacceptable," he said. "I take this very badly because when you're 21 and a professional, you should be careful. By letting himself go at a party, he's penalised the team and damaged the reputation of the club."

Last year, another French player, Stephane Ziani of Bastia, was handed a one-month suspended ban after failing a dope test while playing for Nantes.

Weah keeps AC Milan clear

PARIS (AFP) — George Weah scored a last-minute winner at Lazio at the weekend as AC Milan pulled four points clear at the top of the Italian league but Barcelona missed a golden chance to take over at the top in Spain. Paris St. Germain stayed comfortably clear in France despite a goalless draw at Guingamp and Borussia Dortmund retained a two lead over Bayer Munich in Germany after scoring a 3-1 home win over Munich 1860.

Weah, in his first season in the Serie A after his transfer from Paris Saint Germain in France, netted the only goal against Lazio to silence the 60,000 home fans and take his side to 27 points.

The quicksilver Liberian frontrunner was put through with only goalkeeper Francesco Mancini to beat and he made no mistake — firing home a low shot. It was his fifth league goal of the season.

Second-placed Parma managed only draw at Napoli — Gianfranco Zola's 47th minute penalty cancelling the home side's opener from Fausto Pizz.

Disgraced Parma coach Nevio Scala said after the match: "A team going for the championship title has to do better than that."

Fiorentina, meanwhile, leapfrogged over

Lazio to move into third on 27 points thanks to their answer to Weah — the Argentinian striker Gabriel Batistuta.

Batistuta, the league's top scorer last season with 26 strikes, left it late as well, settling the match against Padova 1-0 with ten minutes with an 18m shot. It was his sixth goal of the season.

Inter Milan remained unbeaten under new English coach Roy Hodgson by winning 2-0 against Cremonese and Juventus went on a goal spree in their derby match with Torino.

A hat-trick from Gianluca Viali did the damage as Juventus scored a 5-0 win. Their other scorers were Ciro Ferrara and Fabrizio Ravanelli.

In Spain, Barcelona, didn't take their chances on Saturday and settled for a 1-1 home draw against lowly Santander — but if they had won they would have gone top of the table.

For 24 hours later pacesetters Atletico Madrid slumped to only their second defeat of the season going down 2-1 to Betis — Croatian defender Robert Jarni and Luigi Pier giving the home side a 2-0 lead by half-time. Bulgarian Luboslav Penev pulled one back for Atletico in the second-half — but it was not enough.

Denmark might host 2004 Olympics

COPENHAGEN (R) — Denmark's Olympic committee said on Monday it had formally applied for government support for a bid for Copenhagen to host the 2004 Summer Olympic Games and awaited a decision by mid-December.

"We have submitted a proposal to the government for Copenhagen to be host city for the 2004 Olympics and understand we will hear in 10 days," Bent Agerskov, secretary-general of Denmark's National Olympic Committee said.

He said any bid would also have to receive the backing of Copenhagen City Council.

3 French players fail dope tests

PARIS (R) — Three French soccer players, including two internationals, have failed dope tests this season, the national soccer federation said on Monday.

Federation President Claude Simonet confirmed reports in the sports daily L'Equipe about the three cases but suggested so-called recreational drugs were involved and that there was no evidence to suggest players were trying to cheat.

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Last year, another French player, Stephane Ziani of Bastia, was handed a one-month suspended ban after failing a dope test while playing for Nantes.

Arab Clubs Championship

Kuwait's Kathima overcome Wihdat

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Kuwaiti champions Kathima Monday almost dashed Al Wihdat's hopes at the 11th Arab Clubs Soccer Championship when they scored a 3-2 victory over the Jordanian champions in their match at Riyadh's Malaz Stadium.

Al Wihdat, who had also lost their opening match 1-0 to Algeria's Blida, played a good match and displayed a noticeable improvement in their form.

After Kathima won the first half 2-1 and took a 3-1 lead towards the end of the match, Al Wihdat's repeated attacks paid off when they scored their second goal. The Kuwaiti team however, managed to hold on to their lead before Al Wihdat could score an equalising goal.

Hosted by Al Nasr Club of Riyadh, the competition

groups 10 top teams divided into two groups.

Group A includes Algeria's Blida, Kuwait's Kathima, Yemen's Al Wihdat, hosts Al Nasr in addition to Al Wihdat.

Group B includes Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia, Tunisia's Al Tarajji, Bahrain's Rifa' Maghrebi, Sudan's Al Hilal and Palestine's Jabal Al Mukabber.

The Palestinian team was a late replacement in the group after Syria's Al Horra announced their withdrawal.

Only the top two teams in each group will advance to the semifinal round.

In earlier matches Bahrain's Al Rifa' beat Palestine's Jabal Al Mukabber, while Saudi Arabia's Al Nasr beat Yemen's Al Wihdat 4-0.

Kathima win over Al

Schedule of Wihdat's remaining matches

Wednesday 6/12 Wihdat-Wihdat

Friday 8/12 Wihdat-Nasr

Street wins 6th consecutive downhill

LAKE LOUISE, Alberta (R) — Picabo Street is back with a vengeance.

The defending Alpine ski World Cup women's downhill champion from the United States picked up Sunday where she left off last season, winning the first women's downhill race of the season.

"I ran the line I wanted to today and skied the way I wanted to ski and proved to myself once again that I know best for myself," Street said.

"I came out of yesterday pretty bummed out because I had bad luck with the weather but more so didn't really ski aggressively," she said.

"I skied with my little tiger out, that had kind of been hiding inside of me somewhere," Street said. "I had to find him and bring him to the surface and ski that way today."

"I wanted to try and find that rage in me again."

Street, 24, ripped up the 2,338-metre, 31-gate course in a time of one minute 26.61 seconds.

Street, who won one of two downhills run at Lake Louise, Canada last season and whose win was her sixth consecutive dating back to Cortina, Italy, last year, bested Germany's Katja Seizinger by .43 seconds.

Russian Warwara Zelenkaja was third in 1:27.30. Italy's Bibiana Perez was fourth in 1:27.52, while Swiss surprise Madlen Sommermatter was fifth in 1:28.55 from the field of 55 starters and 49 finishers.

The race was a make-up for Saturday's attempt, when a snowstorm wiped out the downhill race after 29 racers from a field of 55 had left the starting gate.

ANNOUNCEMENT

JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

TENDER NO. 114/95

132 AND 33KV SWITCHGEAR, 33KV CAPACITOR BANKS AND ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT FOR TAREQ 132/33KV SUBSTATION

Jordan Electricity Authority announces the availability of tender documents for Tender No. 114/95 for Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply C&F Ajaba and guarantee of 132kv & 33kv Switchgear, 33kv Capacitor Banks and Ancillary Equipment for establishment of Tareq 132/33kv substation.

Contractors who are interested to participate in this tender can obtain the tender documents from the Tenders Department at JEA-Main Building (located between the 6th & the 7th circles, Jabal Amman) starting from Tuesday 5.12.1995 against a non-refundable amount of JD300 for each set of Tender Document.

Bids to be submitted to the secretary of tendering committee at the above address not later than 12.00 noon of Monday, 26.12.1995. A bid bond equal to a Hundred Thousand Jordanian Dinars should be accompanied with the offer.

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CONCORD "2"
Sylvester Stallone..in
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Sports



Milwaukee Bucks' Glenn Robinson (right) shoots over Vancouver Grizzlies' Antonio Harris during 2nd half action of their game in Vancouver (Reuters photo)

Cavs win in OT; Magic lose

NEW YORK (R) — Anthony Mason scored 19 points and grabbed 11 rebounds and Hubert Davis added 18 points as the New York Knicks continued their mastery of Washington with a 107-83 rout of the Bullets on Sunday.

Rookie Rasheed Wallace led the Bullets with 15 points. Charles Oakley had 16 points and 16 rebounds for the Knicks.

"I have no respect for them because they have no respect for me," said Oakley.

"He is one of the true pleasures coaching here," said Knicks coach Don Nelson of Oakley.

In Cleveland, Chris Mills scored all of his 22 points after halftime and Dan Majerle snapped a tie with a driving layup with 1:59 remaining in overtime to give the Cleveland Cavaliers a 108-107 victory over the Dallas Mavericks.

The Cavaliers blew a seven-point lead in the final 4:19 of the fourth quarter,

but Mills forced overtime with a three-pointer with nine seconds left in the period, then scored Cleveland's first three points of overtime.

In Portland, Clifford Robinson scored 22 points and rookie Randolph Chiles added a season-high 18 off the bench as the Portland Trail Blazers used a big fourth quarter to defeat the Orlando Magic, 93-82.

Portland trailed 71-69 with 10 minutes to play when Chiles nailed a three-pointer that began a 15-0 run.

In Toronto, Alonzo Mourning scored 15 of his 28 points in the decisive fourth quarter as the Miami Heat defeated the Toronto Raptors, 112-94, for their fifth

straight victory.

Billy Owens scored 28 points and Bimbo Coles added 18 for the Heat.

Miami held a three-point lead with 8:17 remaining but reeled off 13 straight points — nine by Mourning — for a 98-82 advantage with 4:20 to play.

In Vancouver, Vin Baker had 27 points and 15 rebounds and Glenn Robinson added 22 points as the Milwaukee Bucks never trailed and handed the expansion Vancouver Grizzlies their 15th straight loss, 109-95.

The Bucks scored the first eight points and never looked back, leading by as many as 24 points late in the third quarter.

NBA RESULTS

Milwaukee	109	Vancouver	95
Miami	112	Toronto	94
New York	107	Washington	83
Cleveland	108	Dallas	107 (OT)
Portland	93	Orlando	82
LA Lakers	104	Indiana	96

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When the hordes are ready to storm the citadel, one reaction is to panic. A more sensible alternative is to find a way to blunt the assault. We could build a strong case for a jump to two spades by North on the first round. As a result of the delayed jump, the auction was crowded and the final bid was a hit or miss action that worked out well in practice.

Since the auction suggested that North-South did not possess a first-round heart control, the lead of the king of hearts by West to take a look at dummy has a lot to recommend it. A spade shift by West at trick two would then have led to the contract's demise.

The bidding:

Graf pays
\$17m
in taxes

BONN (AFP) — World number one tennis player Steffi Graf had allegedly paid 25 million Deutschmarks (\$17 million) in extra tax since investigations into her financial affairs began in May, German weekly magazine *Der Spiegel* claimed in its Monday edition.

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Jordan, Tyson biggest-earning athletes

NEW YORK (AFP) — Michael Jordan and Mike Tyson, who both made celebrated comebacks this year, top the Forbes Magazine's 1995 list of the world's 40 biggest earners in sport.

Jordan, who pocketed \$43.9 million against Tyson's \$40 million, returned to the National Basketball Association's (NBA's) Chicago Bulls in March after an 18-month retirement. His total income came from \$3.9 million in salary and \$40 million in endorsements.

Tyson's total all came from prizemoney. Nobody wanted to sponsor the former world heavyweight boxing champion, whose three-year prison sentence for rape ended in March. Tyson's main income came

from an 89-second disqualification victory over Peter McNeeley in August.

Tyson might yet surpass Jordan before January 1 providing his fight against Buster Mathis Jr goes ahead in Philadelphia on December 16.

Jordan has made \$170 million since 1990 and he may feature in the world's '400 wealthiest' list which Forbes releases later this month.

Deion Sanders, who plays both baseball and American football, was a distant third at \$22.5 million while the WBO's heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe was fourth after banking \$22.2 million.

Formula-one champion Michael Schumacher of Germany was the richest non-American listed. He

earned \$15 million to finish in ninth place — \$500,000 more than Canada's ice hockey super-star Wayne Gretzky.

Steffi Graf, the world's joint number-one tennis player, was the only woman to be listed. She was in 30th place with earnings of \$7.5 million. In men's tennis world number-one Pete Sampras finished down in 15th spot with \$11.2 million — eight places behind his rival Andre Agassi. Agassi made \$13 million of his \$16 million income from endorsements.

In all, the list included eight American football and baseball players, six NBA players, five tennis players, five boxers and four racing drivers.

Top moneymakers on list of the highest money earners among sports figures for 1995

1. Michael Jordan (USA/basketball)	\$43.9 million
2. Mike Tyson (USA/boxing)	40
3. Deion Sanders (USA/baseball-Amfoot)	22.5
4. Riddick Bowe (USA/boxing)	22.5
5. Shaquille O'Neal (USA/basketball)	21.9
6. George Foreman (USA/boxing)	18
7. Andre Agassi (USA/tennis)	16
8. Jack Nicklaus (USA/golf)	15.1
9. Michael Schumacher (Ger/F1)	15
10. Wayne Gretzky (Can/ice hockey)	14.5
11. Arnold Palmer (USA/golf)	14.1
12. Drew Bledsoe (USA/Amfootball)	13.9
13. Gerhard Berger (Aus/F1)	13.5
14. Evander Holyfield (USA/boxing)	13
15. Pete Sampras (USA/tennis)	11.2
16. Cal Ripken (USA/baseball)	10.3
17. Greg Norman (Aus/golf)	9.7
18. David Robinson (USA/basketball)	9.6
19. Patrick Ewing (USA/basketball)	9.5
20. Dale Earnhardt (USA/motor-racing)	8.4
21. Boris Becker (Ger/tennis)	7.8
22. Hakeem Olajuwon (USA/basketball)	7.8
23. Michael Chang (USA/tennis)	7.6
24. Steffi Graf (Ger/tennis)	7.5
25. Charles Barkley (USA/basketball)	7.1

Pittsburgh, Kansas City clinch NFL division championships

NEW YORK (AP) — Pittsburgh and Kansas City clinched NFL division championships on Sunday and except for Norv Turner, the Dallas Cowboys might have been in the playoffs, too.

Turner, offensive coordinator for two Dallas Super Bowl champions, coached Washington to a 24-17 victory and a season's sweep of the Cowboys. Dallas is 10-3 for the season but 0-2 against Turner's Redskins.

Pittsburgh extended the league's longest winning streak to six games, defeating Houston 21-7 and clinching the AFC central title. Kansas City got a season-high 124 yards from 35-year-old Marcus Allen and wrapped up the AFC West with a 29-23 victory over Oakland.

In other games, it was Denver 31, Jacksonville 23; San Diego 31, Cleveland 13; Seattle 26, Philadelphia 14; Carolina 13, Indianapolis 10; Green Bay 24, Cincinnati 10; Miami 21, Atlanta 20; New Orleans 31, New England 17; St. Louis 23, the New York Jets 20; and Minnesota 31, Tampa Bay 17. San Francisco beat Buffalo 27-17 at night.

Chiefs 29, Raiders 23: The Chiefs (11-2) won their second AFC West title in three years as Allen became the first player in the NFL's 77-year history to run for more than 10,000 yards and catch 5,000 yards in passes. It was Kansas City's fifth straight victory and 12th in 13 games against the Raiders.

Redskins 24, Cowboys 17: Terry Allen scored two touchdowns and Heath Shuler passed for another as Washington (4-9) snapped a four-game losing streak. The Redskins beat Dallas 27-23 in the fifth game of the season when Allen scored twice and gained 123 yards.

Broncos 21, Oilers 7: Pittsburgh stretched its winning streak to an NFL-high six games and wrapped up its third AFC Central championship in coach Bill Coyle.

Kansas City Chief's running back Marcus Allen (32) is brought down after gaining a first down against the Oakland Raiders. Allen set an NFL record at the game, logging his 10,000th yard rushing, with 5,000 of them from passes (Reuters photo)

wher's four seasons. Neil O'Donnell improved their playoff hopes. Denver (7-6) is tied with Indianapolis and Miami for the final two AFC wild-card slots.

Chargers 31, Browns 13: Rookie Aaron Haydon, replacing injured Natrone Means, rushed 32 times for 127 yards and his first two NFL touchdowns as San Diego kept its faint playoff hopes alive with its second win in six days.

Browns 31, Jaguars 23: John Elway compensated for Denver's poor special teams in play, passing for four touch-

downs as the Broncos improved their playoff hopes. Denver (7-6) is tied with Indianapolis and Miami for the final two AFC wild-card slots.

Chargers 31, Browns 13: John Elway compensated for Denver's poor special teams in play, passing for four touch-

downs as the Broncos improved their playoff hopes. Denver (7-6) is tied with Indianapolis and Miami for the final two AFC wild-card slots.

Panthers 13, Colts 10: Carolina won its sixth game and fourth straight at home, using a face mask penalty by Darren Gray to set up John Kasay's 38-yard winning field goal. The Panthers sacked Jim Harbaugh, the NFL's top-rated passer, six times, nearly three quarters. But he caught touchdowns of one and 11 yards from backup Mark Rypien and finished with six receptions for 69 yards.

Packers 24, Bengals 10: Brett Favre threw three touchdowns and completed 31 of 43 passes for 339 yards, his fifth 300-yard game this year and 10th of his career. Favre became the third-fastest quarterback in NFL history to reach 100 career touchdown passes, reaching the plateau in his 62nd game. The record of 44 games was set by Dan Marino from 1983-86. Johnny Unitas did it in 53 games from 1956-60.

Dolphins 21, Falcons 20: Marino Threw a 21-yard touchdown pass to Irving Fryar with 11 seconds left, and Miami rallied with two touchdowns in the last eight minutes to end a three-game losing streak.

Vikings 31, Buccaneers 17: Minnesota's defense had eight sacks to overpower Tampa Bay. Quarterback Trent Dilfer absorbed six sacks before being ejected for fighting with tackle John Randle. The Vikings got a 66-yard touchdown run from Amp Lee, the longest of his career, and Warren Moon had touchdown passes of 27 and 60 yards to Cris Carter.

Rams 23, Jets 20: Stymied for most to do the day, Isaac Bruce broke free for a pair of touchdown catches to lead St. Louis. Bruce, the league's leading receiver in passing yardage, wasn't a factor for nearly three quarters. But he caught touchdowns of one and 11 yards from backup Mark Rypien and finished with six receptions for 69 yards.

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Qweider launches Eau Legere and Olympios
In a press conference held at the Marriott Hotel Qweider Trading Est. heralded a new era of purchases in Jordan's markets.
Eau Legere from Sonia Rykell for women and Olympios from Missoni for men.
Ali Qweider, the General

Army soldier charged in Rabin killing probe

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An Israeli soldier was indicted in military court on Monday on charges stemming from the investigation of the killing of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The soldier, First Sergeant Arik Schwartz of the crack Golani infantry brigade, was the first person to be formally charged in connection with the case.

Army radio, reporting the proceedings in Haifa military court, mentioned only one of the seven charges against Sgt. Schwartz — supplying army weapons to confessed assassin Yigal Amir and his brother Hagai Amir for use in planned attacks against Arabs.

It was unclear from the radio report whether military prosecutors had alleged any direct link between Sgt. Schwartz and the killing of the prime minister.

A military spokesman had no immediate comment on the radio report.

Covering his face with his army coat, Sgt. Schwartz said as he passed reporters that, "it is not right what is happening here," according to Israel radio.

His father, Naftali, a dentist from the religious Tel Aviv suburb of Bnei Brak, said his son was innocent and called the indictment "heart-breaking."

The charge sheet said that during the past year, Sgt. Schwartz smuggled weapons and army equipment from his army base and gave them to Amir and Hagai, knowing the two planned to attack Arabs.

The indictment said Schwartz also buried stolen army property, including weapons, in his back yard. After Mr. Rabin's assassination, Schwartz took those weapons and hid them in the home and car of another army sergeant, according to the charges.

Police found weapons and explosives in the Amir family home in Herzliya, near Tel Aviv.

Schwartz' trial was set for Dec. 12.

The three key suspects in the Rabin assassination — the Amir brothers and a

friend, Dror Adani — were to be charged later this week.

Four other suspects have been released into house arrest, and it was not clear yet whether they would be eventually charged.

Israel's police minister, Moshe Shahal, initially said he believed Mr. Rabin was the victim of a carefully hatched plot by right-wing extremists, but later said there apparently was no conspiracy.

In Monday's inquiry commission hearing, one of the police officers who overpowered and killed Yigal Amir after the shooting said the gunman complained all the time that police were hurting him.

Officer Amran Ronen on Monday recounted the following conversation with the gunman:

Amir: "My brother, take the handcuffs of me."

Ronen: "What do you mean by calling me your brother?"

Amir: "I'm not an Arab, I too, served in Golani."

Another police witness, Major Yona Zari, told the three-member panel that six of his officers surrounded Shimon Peres, at the time the foreign minister, as he left the peace rally.

He was then shown a photograph of Mr. Peres walking to his waiting car, alone. Amir has said he had also planned to kill Mr. Peres, but changed his plans when Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres left the rally separately.

"Until this second I had no idea there was anything wrong in connection with my men," Maj. Zari said.

The incident reflected the confusion that prevailed at the rally among different security units.

One of the commission members, law professor Arieh Rosen-Zvi, asked Maj. Zari if a clearer chain of command was not called for at such large-scale events.

Maj. Zari acknowledged that this was the obvious conclusion. "You can't argue with facts," he said.

On Sunday, Amir said he carried secrets that "will destroy everything," and hinted he got help from one of the prime minister's bodyguards.

"Everything until now was a mask," Amir said. The truth about the slaying, he said, would "turn the country upside down."

Amir also said authorities killed the bodyguard, who he said helped him by creating confusion during the Nov. 4 shooting at a Tel Aviv peace rally.

"Why don't you publicise that they killed one of Rabin's bodyguards? The one who shouted 'the bullets are dummies,'" Amir yelled to reporters as he was brought into a Tel Aviv courtroom to have his detention prolonged.

The call came days after Yemeni newspaper urged the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit in Oman on Monday to discuss Sana'a's admission into the six-nation confederation.

The call came days after Yemeni's Parliament Speaker Sheikh Abdullah Ben Hussein Al Ahmar said Yemen felt its natural place should be within the GCC despite strained relations with some of its members since the 1990 Gulf crisis.

Al Thawra daily said Yemen's location at the tip of the Arabian Peninsula would help boost security and stability across the Arab Gulf region, the world's main oil supplier.

"The summit has to discuss conditions to open the membership door for Yemen to join the GCC," it said.

"It is the duty of the summit to discuss all means to boost security and stability and to objectively weigh its options on labour, joint defence and security," it added.

"Utilising Yemen's geographic location to consolidate security in the Arabian Peninsula and in the Gulf is an issue of utmost importance at the summit in light of the speedy developments and experiences that faced the region since the GCC was formed."

Yemen's ties with GCC states, especially Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, were damaged because of Sana'a's sympathy with Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Relations with Saudi Arabia have gradually improved since then but strains still persist with Kuwait.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman.

Yemen joined Jordan, Iraq and Egypt in the short-lived Arab Cooperation Council, an economic bloc founded in the 1980s that collapsed after the Gulf crisis.

Yemen wants GCC to consider its entry

SANA (R) — A Yemeni newspaper urged the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit in Oman on Monday to discuss Sana'a's admission into the six-nation confederation.



GULF SUMMIT: Oman's Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id (right) on Monday receives United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan upon his arrival in Muscat to attend the annual summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which groups Oman and the UAE with Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait (see page one) (Reuter photo)

Thuneibat: No Brotherhood participation in government

By Sa'eda Kiani
Special to the Jordan Times

A M M A N — Muslim Brotherhood leader Abdul Majid Thuneibat on Sunday lashed out at what he described as the government's plans to curb press freedoms and declared that the movement would not participate in the government even if it were asked to. He also said that the movement would employ all peaceful means to counter all efforts aimed at "muzzling" the press or "repressing" public liberties.

Mr. Thuneibat's comments came amid reported government moves to tighten the Press and Publications Law and scale down the powers exercised by professional associations.

Yemen's ties with GCC states, especially Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, were damaged because of Sana'a's sympathy with Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Relations with Saudi Arabia have gradually improved since then but strains still persist with Kuwait.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman.

Yemen joined Jordan, Iraq and Egypt in the short-lived Arab Cooperation Council, an economic bloc founded in the 1980s that collapsed after the Gulf crisis.

three months to three years for violations of the law.

In addition, the amendments cancel a provision that sets the government's share in the equity of any newspaper at not more than 30 per cent. The government now owns 61 per cent in the Jordan Press Foundation that publishes Al Ra'i newspaper and 35 per cent in the Jordanian Company for Press and Publication that publishes Al Dustour.

"In brief, what is happening is a reversal on democracy, a coup against the institutions and oppression on individuals," Mr. Thuneibat asserted. In this atmosphere, "it is the whims and moods (of officials) and not laws and regulations that will rule."

According to Mr. Thuneibat, Jordan is renegeing on its commitment towards democracy and public freedoms.

"It is the political parties, professional associations, press, clubs and mosques that assume responsibility in shaping policies, he said. "But the governments in our

(Continued on page 7)

COLUMN

Peres puts Israeli ministers on the clock

TEL AVIV(R) — Israeli ministers have to do some fast talking these days if they want to get their points across at weekly cabinet meetings. Prime Minister Shimon Peres has installed a chess clock in the cabinet room and limited each minister's talk-time to five minutes when a debate looks likely to drag on. "It rings softly. The clock is next to me and a minister understands his time is up," Cabinet Secretary Shmuel Hollander told Israel's Army Radio Monday. The only exception? Mr. Peres, himself. "It's in his nature to be very brief in what he says at the cabinet," Mr. Hollander said. The measure is the latest control Mr. Peres has clamped on ministers since taking over from assassinated Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin last month. Mr. Peres has banned the media from their traditional "steakout" in the parking lot of the prime minister's office during cabinet meetings, effectively denying ministers the opportunity to comment immediately on the proceedings.

Pope canonises founder of religious order

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Roman Catholic Church's newest saint is a Frenchman born of a noble family and founder of a missionary order that began working with Eskimos and American Indians. Pope John Paul II Sunday canonised Eugene De Mazenod, who was born in Aix-en-Provence in 1782 and whose family fled to Italy to escape the upheaval of the French Revolution. De Mazenod returned to France, determined to help the unfortunate. At age 29, he was ordained a priest and set to work helping the poor of Paris and its countryside. In 1816, he established the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, an order he continued to guide even after becoming Bishop of Marseille. The order's first missionaries set out in 1841 for Alaska and western Canada. Later, other missionaries worked in southern Africa and on the island now called Sri Lanka. De Mazenod, who died in 1861, is the 27th saint proclaimed by Pope John Paul during his 17 years as Pope.

Israeli doctors separate siamese twins

PETAH TIKVA, Israel (R) — Israeli doctors successfully separated siamese twins Sunday only hours after the girls were born joined at the intestine, a hospital spokesman said. "They were separated successfully and are in excellent condition," said a spokesman for Schneider Children's Medical Centre where the twins were born. Dr. Eliyahu Wielansky, deputy director of the centre near Tel Aviv, said it was hard to predict how successful surgeons would be in reconstructing the girls' intestinal and urological systems. Officials at the centre said it was the sixth such recorded case in medical history. Most siamese twins are born connected at the chest. The girls, delivered by caesarean section in the 35th week of pregnancy, had a combined weight of 5.7 kilograms. "If the girls survive the initial operation today, they will likely require years of rehabilitation and repeated surgery," Dr. Wielansky said before the surgery ended. Israeli physicians had never attempted to separate twins joined at the intestine.

The politics of uncertainty surrounding Mr. Papandreu's illness have spread far beyond the hospital he entered suffering from pneumonia on Nov. 20. He added Mr. Papandreu remained on a kidney machine, was being fed through a tube in his stomach and that doctors were continuing attempts to gradually disconnect him from the respirator. "He could not say when that would happen." Mr. Papandreu, who is not a physician but a banker, was forced to read the statement after none of the 15 doctors caring for Mr. Papandreu wanted to brief reporters.

"No doctor wants to assume this task," he explained. Dr. Grigoris Skalkeas, who resigned as spokesman for the team Sunday, said in a written statement that he quit because "the objectiveness of the briefing

Egyptian police round up Brotherhood campaigners

CAIRO (Agencies) — Police on Monday arrested 18 campaign workers for a Muslim brotherhood candidate running in a second round of legislative elections, police officials said.

The followers of Mukhtar Nuh, the most senior Brotherhood member and candidate to survive the first round vote held last Wednesday, were detained in dawn raids on their homes in Mr. Nuh's Cairo voting district of Matariya, they said.

Mr. Nuh, the treasurer of the Brotherhood-led Egyptian Lawyers Union, was one of only 25 Brotherhood candidates who managed to cling on to reach the run-offs, of

The opposition has cried foul after its candidates failed to win a single seat in the first round, which saw the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) sweep up 123 of the 137 seats so far decided. The remaining 14 went to independents, most of them former NDP members.

A total 307 seats are up for

grabs in the run-offs in which 66 opposition hopefuls, including the Brotherhood, are still left.

Nearly 2,000 Brotherhood followers were arrested in the days leading up to the first-round poll and during the voting itself. And the opposition also accused the government of widespread vote rigging.

Meanwhile, an Interior Ministry official said a total of 17 people died during violence connected to last Wednesday's vote. Security sources earlier said more than 80 were wounded during the poll and the next day.

Fourteen died in provinces in the northern Delta, two in south Egypt and one in Cairo, most in brawls between supporters of rival candidates, the official, who asked not to be named, said.

He said more violence was expected on Wednesday night due to "the high competition" adding that police numbers had been boosted.

Four people have been on hunger strike since last

Papandreu regains consciousness, but not yet breathing on his own

ATHENS (Agencies) — Premier Andreas Papandreu on Monday regained consciousness for the first time in a week but doctors said efforts to remove him from a respirator were not yet successful.

The premier's condition is stable and he is in contact with his surroundings, said Panagiotis Poulios, president of the Onassis Cardiac Surgery Centre.

He added Mr. Papandreu remained on a kidney machine, was being fed through a tube in his stomach and that doctors were continuing attempts to gradually disconnect him from the respirator. "He could not say when that would happen."

Mr. Poulios, who is not a physician but a banker, was forced to read the statement after none of the 15 doctors caring for Mr. Papandreu wanted to brief reporters.

"No doctor wants to assume this task," he explained. Dr. Grigoris Skalkeas, who resigned as spokesman for the team Sunday, said in a written statement that he quit because "the objectiveness of the briefing

was placed in doubt." Many local media and the Athens Medical Union — a doctor's professional organisation — have criticised the hospital for failing to provide more details on Mr. Papandreu's condition.

The politics of uncertainty surrounding Mr. Papandreu's illness have spread far beyond the hospital he entered suffering from pneumonia on Nov. 20.

Heavily sedated and on mechanical support for most of the two weeks he has been hospitalised, Mr. Papandreu has neither been replaced as premier nor have been any attempts to do so. Interior Minister Akis Tsochadzopoulos, the most senior cabinet member, has been filling in for him when necessary.

Mr. Papandreu had been in frail health even before his hospitalisation. Heart surgery in 1988 forced him to keep public appearances to a minimum since his return to power in 1993. He also served as premier from 1981 to 1989.

Mr. Papandreu has been